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Coronavirus clusters swell on both sides of the U.S.

Associated Press

Alarming clusters of the coronavirus swelled on both coasts of the U.S. on Tuesday, with 70 cases now tied to a biotech conference in Boston and infections turning up at 10 nursing homes in the hard-hit Seattle area. Presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden abruptly canceled rallies because of worries about the virus, and New York's governor announced he is sending the National Guard to scrub public places and deliver food in a New York City suburb that is at the center of the nation's biggest known cluster of infections. Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency as cases statewide jumped by 51 from the day before, to 92. Of that number, 70 are now connected to a meeting held last month by biotech company Biogen at a hotel in downtown Boston. Baker said the state of emergency will give him greater authority to take such actions as shutting down large events, gaining access to buildings or stockpiling protective gear.

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Workers in protective clothing wait for passengers from the Grand Princess, a cruise ship carrying multiple people who have tested positive for COVID-19, to board a chartered plane in Oakland, Calif., Tuesday, March 10, 2020. The passengers on the flight are going to San Antonio to be quarantined at Lackland Air Force Base.

Associated Press

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Coronavirus clusters swell on both sides of the U.S.

Continued from Front

The moves came as the battle to stop the virus from spreading intensified. More schools and universities sent students home, while conferences and other events were canceled. The United Nations announced it would close its New York headquarters to the public and suspend all tours. The Coachella music festival that draws tens of thousands to the California desert near Palm Springs every April was postponed until October. And one of the biggest resort operators in Las Vegas, MGM Resorts International, said it would close buffets at all of its Las Vegas Strip casinos as a precaution.

A top federal health official pointed to Europe, rather than the virus' point of origin in China, as the likely source for the infection's continued spread to the U.S. "Right now the epicenter — the new China — is Europe," Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said on Capitol Hill. "And there's a lot of people coming back and forth from Europe that are now starting to seed these communities."

Authorities in Washington state reported two new deaths from the virus — a man and woman, both in their 80s, who were residents of a nursing home and a senior center. Of the



Pedestrians pass New Rochelle City Hall, Tuesday, March 10, 2020, in New York. State officials are shutting several schools and houses of worship for two weeks in the New York City suburb and sending in the National Guard to help with what appears to be the nation's biggest cluster of coronavirus cases, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Tuesday.

Associated Press

24 deaths in the state, 19 have been tied to a single nursing home, Life Care Center of Kirkland. But the state officials said they are now working with 10 nursing facilities where residents or workers have been tested positive.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announced new nursing-home rules that would limit visitors and subject health care workers to screening. Similarly, in Kentucky, Gov. Andy Beshear said state-run nursing homes will severely restrict visitors, with private operators strongly urged to follow suit. Six cases have been diagnosed in the state.

The decisions by both Democratic presidential candidates to call off rallies in Cleveland came as voters headed to the polls for a primary election in neighboring Michigan.

"We are heeding the public warnings from Ohio state officials, who have communicated concern

about holding large, indoor events during the coronavirus outbreak," Sanders campaign spokesman Mike Casca said in a statement. "All future Bernie 2020 events will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis."

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said three schools and other gathering places will be shut down for two weeks in a containment zone in New Rochelle, the epicenter of an outbreak of more than 100 cases. Officials said the National Guard troops will help clean public spaces and deliver food to people quarantined at home in the zone, which extends a mile in all directions from a synagogue connected to some of the cases.

Officials would not say how many National Guard members would be involved, and there was no immediate sign of any troops on the streets. Apart from those who are under quarantine, residents and

visitors to the community of 79,000 will be able to come and go freely, with no checkpoints, and businesses can remain open, officials said.

"It is a dramatic action, but it is the largest cluster of cases in the country," Cuomo said. "The numbers are going up unabated, and we do need a special public health strategy." New Rochelle and surrounding Westchester County account for the majority of the state's 173 coronavirus cases. New York City, with 100 times the population of New Rochelle, has 36 known infections.

The virus has infected more than 800 people in the U.S. and killed at least 29, with one state after another recording its first infections in quick succession. New Jersey reported its first coronavirus death Tuesday. Worldwide, about 118,000 have been infected and over 4,200 have died.

For most people, the virus

causes only mild or moderate symptoms such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. Most people recover in a matter of weeks, as has happened with three-quarters of those infected in China.

On Wall Street, stocks surged Tuesday after suffering staggering losses the day before, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average gaining more than 1,100 points on hopes the Trump administration would take steps to cushion the economy from the damage caused by the outbreak.

In Oakland, California, thousands of restless passengers who have been stuck aboard a cruise ship hit by the coronavirus waited their turn to get off the vessel and go to U.S. military bases or back to their home countries for two weeks of quarantine.

"I'm bored and frustrated," said Carolyn Wright, 63, of Santa Fe, New Mexico. "All of a sudden a two-week vacation has turned into a five-week vacation."

After being forced to idle for days off the California coast, the ship docked Monday in Oakland with about 3,500 passengers and crew, including at least 21 who tested positive for the virus. Authorities said foreign passengers would be flown home, while Americans would be flown or bused to military bases in California, Texas and Georgia. About 1,100 crew members, 19 of whom tested positive for the virus, will be quarantined and treated aboard the ship, which will dock elsewhere after passengers are unloaded, Gov. Gavin Newsom said. □

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Court: House entitled to Mueller probe grand jury testimony

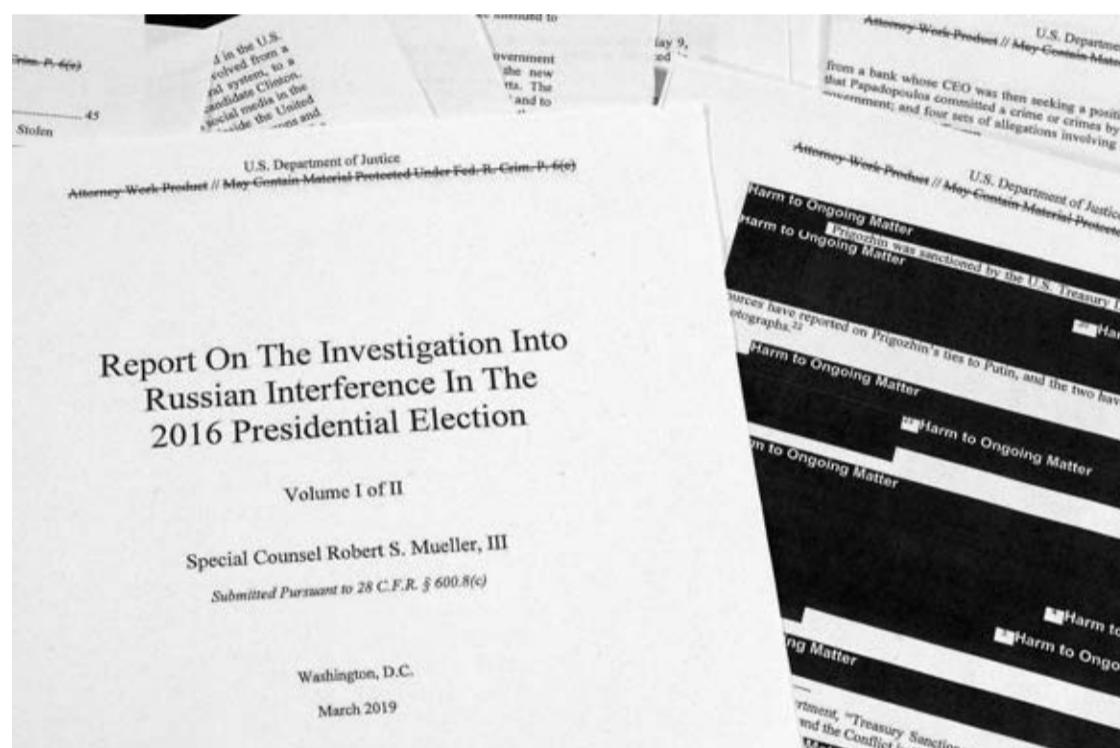
By ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department must give Congress secret grand jury testimony from special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, a federal appeals court ruled Tuesday, giving the House a significant win in a separation-of-powers clash with the Trump administration.

The three-judge panel said in a 2-1 opinion that the House Judiciary Committee's need for the material in its investigations of President Donald Trump outweighed the Justice Department's interests in keeping the testimony secret. The opinion authorizes access to information that Democrats have sought since the conclusion of Mueller's investigation, enabling lawmakers to review previously-undisclosed details from the two-year Russia probe. Writing for the majority, Judge Judith Rogers said that with Mueller himself having "stopped short" of reaching conclusions about Trump's conduct to avoid stepping on the House's impeachment power, the committee was able to persuasively argue that it needed access to the underlying grand jury material to make its own determinations.

"Courts must take care not to second-guess the manner in which the House plans to proceed with its impeachment investigation or interfere with the House's sole power of impeachment," Rogers wrote, calling the committee's request for the grand jury



In this April 18, 2019, file photo, special counsel Robert Mueller's redacted report on Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election is photographed in Washington.

Associated Press

material "directly linked to its need to evaluate the conclusions reached and not reached by the Special Counsel."

House Democrats cheered the opinion, with Rep. Jerrold Nadler, the Judiciary Committee chairman, saying the panel "remains committed to holding the President accountable to the rule of law and preventing improper interference in law enforcement investigations."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the ruling a rejection of the president's "insistence that he is above the law" and a further rebuke to Attorney General William Barr. Last week, another federal judge scolded Barr in a separate case for what he said were misleading public statements by the attorney general

about Mueller's findings. Judge Thomas Griffith issued a separate concurring opinion in Tuesday's appeals court decision. Judge Neomi Rao, a Trump appointee, dissented, suggesting that the need for the testimony could have waned after Trump's acquittal at a Senate impeachment trial last month. "After all, the Committee sought these materials preliminary to an impeachment proceeding and the Senate impeachment trial has concluded. Why is this controversy not moot?" Rao wrote.

It is unclear when the materials might actually be turned over. The Trump administration can ask the full appeals court to rehear the case, and can appeal to the Supreme Court. The ruling softens the blow

of a loss the House endured two weeks ago when judges on the same court said they would not force former White House counsel Don McGahn to testify before Congress. The split decisions leave neither the administration nor Congress with a clear upper hand in an ongoing interbranch dispute.

The ruling is a major win for Democrats who have fought the Justice Department for nearly a year, but it's unclear what the House will actually do with the material. Lawyers for the Democrats have said the grand jury material could potentially be used for additional articles of impeachment, though the Senate impeachment trial over the president's interactions with Ukraine ended weeks ago in an acquittal.

The case is one of several disputes between the Trump administration and Congress that courts have grappled with in recent months. The two sides had been similarly at odds on the question of whether McGahn could be forced to testify about Trump's behavior during the Russia investigation. The appeals court ruled in a recent 2-1 decision that judges had no role to play in that dispute and dismissed the case.

Mueller issued a 448-page report last April that detailed multiple interactions between the 2016 Trump campaign and Russia and that examined several episodes involving the president for potential obstruction of justice. Mueller said his team did not find sufficient evidence to establish a criminal conspiracy between the campaign and the Kremlin to tip the election, though pointedly noted that he could not exonerate the president for obstruction.

Portions of the report were blacked out, including grand jury testimony and material that Mueller said could harm ongoing investigations or infringe on the privacy of third parties.

Grand jury testimony is typically treated as secret, in part to protect the privacy of people who are not charged or are considered peripheral to a criminal investigation. But several exceptions allow for the material to be turned over, including if it is in connection with a judicial proceeding. □

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Biden wins Mississippi and Missouri in early blow to Sanders

By WILL WEISSERT and

LAURIE KELLMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden delivered decisive

wins in Missouri and Mississippi on Tuesday, dealing an early blow to Bernie Sanders on a night when six states were up for grabs. Both men were focused intensely on Michigan, the night's biggest prize.

That's where the Vermont senator scored an upset that lent much-needed credibility to his 2016 primary challenge of Hillary Clinton — and where President Donald Trump's victory four years was so narrow that Democrats are desperate to show they have the strength to flip it back. The former vice president made a final push there in recent days, rallying auto-workers and touting a fresh round of high-profile endorsements.

Beyond Michigan, Sanders could get a boost in Idaho, North Dakota or Washington state, where polls haven't yet closed.

Even as the contours of the race took shape, the campaigns faced new uncertainty amid fears of the spreading coronavirus. Sanders and Biden both abruptly canceled public events in Ohio that were scheduled for Tuesday night. Sanders' campaign said all future events would be decided on a case-by-case basis, while Biden called off a scheduled stop in Florida.

The Democratic National Committee also said that Sunday's debate between Sanders and Biden would be conducted without an audience.

Tuesday marked the first time voters weighed in on the Democratic contest since it effectively narrowed to a two-person

race between Sanders and Biden. It was a test of whether Sanders can broaden

lead in delegates to the Democratic National Convention this summer in Mil-

waukee. That they think can win." The former vice president has campaigned in recent

days by protesters angered by his support for the North American Free Trade Agreement and reluctance to embrace sweeping environmental proposals outlined in the Green New Deal.

In a scuffle with demonstrators, Biden senior adviser Symone Sanders was knocked to the ground but unhurt.

Biden also endured a testy exchange with a worker who accused him of "actively trying to end our Second Amendment right." Biden responded, "You're full of shit," and went on to say that while he supports the Second Amendment, "Do you need 100 rounds?" His gun control plan reinstates the assault weapons ban and includes a voluntary buyback program for assault weapons, stopping short of a mandatory buy-back program that some of his opponents had supported in the primary.

Although he has rejected notions he could drop out of the race if Tuesday goes badly, Sanders says he is now battling the "Democratic establishment."

"In a general election, which candidate can generate the enthusiasm and the excitement and the voter turnout we need?" Sanders asked.

Detroit neighbors Fayette Turner and Margaret Marsh were split on which to support: Turner voted for Sanders on Tuesday, while Marsh voted for Biden. But they agreed on one thing: the desire to beat Trump.

"Anybody but Trump," Turner, 64, said. Marsh, 69, said her family has identified as Republican her entire life -- until Trump took office.

"I think Biden's the sanest one left," Marsh said. "Hopefully he'll have a good vice president." □



Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks during a campaign rally at Renaissance High School in Detroit, Monday, March 9, 2020.

Associated Press

his appeal among African Americans after earlier setbacks in the South. Biden, meanwhile, sought to show that he can keep momentum going after his surprise Super Tuesday turnaround. With 125 delegates at stake, Michigan got most of the attention Tuesday. Trump won the state by only about 10,000 votes during the general election in 2016, and Democrats are eager to take it back.

A win for Biden might show his party he can do it again against Trump in November. But Sanders presented himself as a credible alternative and aimed to block Biden from piling up a wide

waukee. Sanders has predicted victory in Michigan and scrapped a scheduled Mississippi stop to spend more time there. Biden went there less frequently, but sought late-breaking support there and toured an auto plant in Detroit on Tuesday.

"You're the best damn workers in the world!" Biden shouted through a megaphone at the auto plant as workers in hard hats chanted, "Joe! Joe!"

Biden ticked off the names of six former presidential rivals who have endorsed him just in the past week, saying he is "the candidate

days with two of them, Sens. Cory Booker and Kamala Harris, and appeared with Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

All three have been mentioned as possible vice presidential picks if Biden wins the nomination.

The confidence Biden exudes is a remarkable turnaround for someone who just two weeks ago looked to be falling too far behind Sanders to catch up. Now he's trying to present an air of inevitability as the primary race's winner.

It wasn't all good feelings, though.

At the auto plant, Biden was interrupted repeat-

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People over coral?: Florida could ban sunscreen bans

By BRENDAN FARRINGTON
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Key West wants to protect the coral reefs that are vital to the southernmost city's economy. The Florida Legislature is saying not so fast. A year after Key West voted to ban the sale of sunscreens that contain chemicals researchers say harm coral reefs, the House voted 68-47 Tuesday to prohibit sunscreen bans. The bill now goes to Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Bill supporters say the research that says sunscreens containing oxybenzone or octinoxate harm coral isn't solid, while the sun's ability to cause skin cancer is without question.

"If we don't have evidence that's good, that's actually verified, we cannot allow these communities to ban sunscreens. We have plenty of empirical evidence that sunscreens are very, very important to our society, that they save lives. By banning them, we'll be threatening lives," said Republican Rep. Ralph Massullo, who is a dermatologist.

Key West, where fishermen, snorkelers and scuba divers are drawn to the reefs, is the only Florida city to pass an ordinance to ban sunscreens containing the chemicals in question. The ordinance is set to go into place next year unless De-

Santis signs the bill. Miami Beach and Surfside in Miami-Dade County considered bans, but ultimately took no action.

Bill opponents argued that local governments should have the right to protect resources that are important to them. They also said the research is valid and that consumers have other products available to protect themselves.

"The science on this matter is not junk science," said Democratic Rep. Javier Fernandez, who said that 6,000 tons of sunscreen chemicals wash up on coral reefs across the planet each year. "How can anyone characterize the action of the city of Key West as anything other than reasonable and prudent? ... What the leadership of the city of Key West did makes absolute sense."

Key West isn't the only place to pass a sunscreen ban. Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Caribbean island of Bonaire and the archipelago nation of Palau in the western Pacific have all enacted sunscreen bans that are either in place or will be over the next two years.

Drug store chain CVS announced in August that it will remove the chemicals from 60 of its store brand sunscreen products, and it and other companies are now marketing miner-

al-based "reef safe" sunscreen.

"The market has already responded by introducing a host of new, affordable, and most importantly, effective options," Fernandez said.

Democratic Rep. Anna Eskamani noted that even the state Department of Environmental Protection is promoting reef-safe sunscreen. The department has a 30-second YouTube video offering advice on how to protect reefs, including not using plastic straws and other single-use plastics, not standing on or touching reefs and using reef-safe products.

Last year DeSantis vetoed a bill that would prevent local governments from banning plastic straws. Key West City Commissioner Jimmy Weekley now hopes DeSantis will do the same with this bill and expressed frustration that the Legislature is meddling in local affairs.

"We all are fighting issues that the state Legislatures feels that local communities should not have any control over," Weekley said. "Whether it's vacation rentals or the use of plastic bags and Styrofoam, they've basically taken away a lot of our home rule rights."

Massullo said he recommends zinc-based sunscreen for his patients. But he said consumers tend to



Rep. Tina Scott Polsky, D-Boca Raton, debates on the bill to ban the banning of sunscreen containing ingredients that some researchers say harm coral reefs during session Tuesday March 10, 2020, in Tallahassee, Fla.

Associated Press

use it on their faces and not on their entire bodies.

"Those sunscreens are very, very difficult to use," Mas-

sullo said. "Zinc is very, very thick and also stains, and most people don't like to use it." □

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Most of U.S. starts answering census questions in next days

By MIKE SCHNEIDER and
FRANCOIS DUCKETT

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The 2020 census kicked off in rural villages of Alaska in January. Now the rest of the nation gets to start participating in the once-a-decade head count. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions.

WHEN WILL I HEAR FROM THE CENSUS BUREAU?

The Census Bureau will begin sending out notices this week to 95% of the nation's households, informing people that they can start participating in the 2020 census. The mailings will be staggered, going out from March 12 to 20 to avoid overwhelming the self-response website and a telephone helpline. About 80% of households receiving the initial mailings will be encouraged to answer the questions online, and around 20% of households will get a paper questionnaire that can be mailed back because they live in neighborhoods with low internet access or large numbers of seniors.



In this Aug. 13, 2019, file photo, a worker gets ready to pass out instructions on how to fill out the 2020 census during a town hall meeting in Lithonia, Ga.

For less than 5% of households, in areas that have been hit by natural disaster or places that use only PO boxes, a census taker will drop off the initial notices in person. Census takers will eventually go home to home, interviewing residents of households that have not responded.

WILL SOMEONE BE KNOCK-

ING AT MY DOOR?

Only if you fail to reply online, by mail or by telephone. This is the first census in which the Census Bureau is encouraging most people to answer the questions via the internet. The Census Bureau's initial mailing in mid-March will be followed by a reminder letter a week later and a postcard reminder a week

after that. If you still haven't responded by April, you will get another reminder with a paper questionnaire in the mail, followed by a final reminder postcard. By May, the Census Bureau will be sending out workers to knock on the doors of households they haven't heard back from.

WHAT ARE THE QUESTIONS?

The form asks how many people live in the household as of April 1, whether the home is owned or rented, and the form-filler's age and sex. They ask people to identify themselves by race, declare whether they're Hispanic or not, and provide details about their country of origin. All other residents in the household must answer, or have the first form-filler answer for them, the same questions on age, sex, race and Hispanic origin. They must specify their relationship to the form-filler and if they live elsewhere, like away at college. For the first time, same-sex couples will be able to identify as such, either as spouses or unmarried partners.

IS THERE A CITIZENSHIP QUESTION?

No. The Trump administration tried to add the question, but the U.S. Supreme Court blocked it.

WHAT IF I DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH?

Besides English, respondents will be able to answer the census questionnaire in Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese and Japanese. Guides in both video and print are being issued in 59 languages, including American Sign Language.

WHO GETS COUNTED?

Everyone residing in the United States and the five U.S. territories, including non-citizens and immigrants living in the country illegally. Prisoners are counted in the facilities where they live, and military personnel temporarily deployed overseas are counted at their home addresses in the U.S.

WILL MY INFORMATION BE SHARED?

No. Under federal law, all responses are kept completely confidential, and they can be used only to produce statistics.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Because the 2020 census is used to determine who your representative in Congress is, where new businesses can build, how crowded your local schools will get over the next decade, and whether highways in your community get money for repairs. The results of the 2020 census help determine the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal spending, as well as how many congressional seats each state gets.

HOW DOES THE CENSUS BUREAU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME?

They don't start from scratch. The Census Bureau continually updates a complete inventory of housing units using an address list that shows them where to count. They get information from the U.S. Postal Service, tribal, state and local governments. Addresses that couldn't be verified using satellite images or mapping tools were checked door-to-door by canvassers last fall. □

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Baltimore businessman admits to bribing former lawmaker

By REGINA GARCIA CANO

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — A Baltimore businessman pleaded guilty Monday to two federal charges stemming from bribes totaling \$42,500 that he paid to a former state lawmaker while she was still in office.

Lance Andre Lucas pleaded guilty to federal honest services wire fraud and a travel act violation, admitting to bribing former state Del. Cheryl Diane Glenn. The veteran Democratic lawmaker and leading advocate of marijuana legalization pleaded guilty in January to accepting more than \$33,000 in bribes from people other than Lucas.

"Yes, your honor," Lucas responded when questioned repeatedly by the federal judge, including whether he understood the charges against him. Lucas, 44, was charged by information, which is a type of charging document prosecutors use when a defendant has waived being indicted by a grand jury.

Glenn is one of three elected officials who have recently faced federal public corruption charges in Maryland. Former Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh was sentenced last month to three years in prison for fraudulent sales of her self-published children's books used to promote her political career, while former state Del. Tawanna Gaines was sentenced to six months in prison in January for misusing campaign funds for her personal benefit.

Lucas made 11 payments to Glenn, starting with four money orders, each for \$500, on May 2018 after he told her about the significant costs that an unnamed company had incurred in its pursuit of a medical marijuana dispensary license. During a lunch meeting in Baltimore, Glenn suggested she would have drafted a bill benefiting the company had he paid her the money spent in the effort to get the license, according to the charging



In this April 12, 2017, file photo, Delegate Cheryl Diane Glenn, a Baltimore Democrat who chairs the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, speaks during a news conference in Baltimore.

Associated Press

document.

Lucas paid the bulk of the

money after Glenn had already been interviewed by

FBI agents in February 2019 and admitted to receiving \$33,750 in exchange for granting various legislative favors, including work relevant to the marijuana industry. Lucas' attorney, Jerry Tarud, after the hearing said some of his clients' interactions with Glenn were wiretapped.

The charging document states that Lucas in March 2019 even offered to pay Glenn up to \$80,000 to help a different unnamed company secure a medical marijuana growing license. Days after that conversation, Lucas gave Glenn \$1,000 in cash, and two weeks later, she told him that she "got a guy on the inside" of the state's Medical Marijuana Cannabis Commission that would give his company "an advantage during the application process."

The commission oversees all licensing of the state's medical marijuana program. It is named after Glenn's late mother, Natalie M. LaPrade. □

Man, woman charged with trespassing at Trump's Mar-a-Lago

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A man and woman were arrested Tuesday after parking a pickup truck and remaining near President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida without permission, authorities said. The man and woman were charged with trespassing after warning and resisting without violence, according to a Palm Beach Police Department news release. Their names weren't im-

mediately disclosed. The man and woman drove a pickup truck onto the resort grounds after being warned not to and then refused to leave, police said. After they were taken into custody, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office bomb squad responded to make sure the vehicle wasn't dangerous.

At no time was the community, resort guests or resort staff at risk, the news

release said. Trump was not in Florida at the time, though he had played host to Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro at the resort over the weekend. Last month, a homeless man was arrested outside Mar-a-Lago and charged with trespassing. A Connecticut opera singer accused of going through a checkpoint at the resort and drawing gunfire in January faces multiple charges. □

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What's Happening: Italy under lockdown, officials infected

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy spent the first day under a nationwide lockdown after the government extended restrictions on movement in the north to the rest of the country to contain the new coronavirus. As Italians awoke to a new reality and virus cases continued to climb, Chinese President Xi Jinping made his first trip to the city where the global epidemic first emerged. The contrast illustrated the global east-to-west spread of the virus.

These are some of the latest developments on Tuesday:

ITALY BEGINS LIFE UNDER NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN

Italy's first day under a nationwide lockdown came after a decree signed late Monday by Premier Giuseppe Conte ordered the nationwide restrictions on movement. Panic buying erupted, prompting the government to assure citizens that supermarkets will remain open and stocked. Conte's office said runs on supermarkets went counter to the intent of the new decree, which aims to prevent Italians from congregating. Soldiers and police enforced the travel ban and Carabinieri teams patrolled cafes to make sure owners were keeping customers a meter (about three feet) apart. Meanwhile, neighbors Malta and Italy slammed their borders with Italy shut.

CHINA'S PRESIDENT VISITS VIRUS EPICENTER

Chinese President Xi Jin-



A member of the medical staff measures the temperature of a traveller at a autobahn park place near Gries am Brenner, Austrian province of Tyrol, at border crossing with Italy on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

ping made his first visit to the coronavirus' epicenter of Wuhan — his first since the start of the outbreak — as parts of the nation appeared to be returning to normal. It was one of several recent signs of the diminishing threat the coronavirus presents in China as the illness spreads west. In mainland China, where the outbreak emerged in December, almost three quarters of the more than 80,000 patients who contracted the virus have recovered. Employees have been returning to work, but with new routines that include workers wearing protective face masks and not facing each other while eating.

VIRUS INFECTING POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS

A growing number of military and political leaders are getting sick with the virus. Poland's top army commander, Gen. Jaroslaw Mika, was diagnosed after returning from a meeting in Germany. Many other officials are in self-isolation after potential exposure, including President Donald Trump's new chief of staff, the German interior minister and the Norwegian defense minister. The Spanish parliament's lower house canceled its activities for a week after a far-right Vox party member tested positive as cases in the country surged to 1,600. This follows the French culture minister and several French lawmakers testing positive for the virus. In Italy, Nicola

Zingaretti, the governor of the Lazio region who is also head of the Democratic Party, is also recovering. Meanwhile, four Iranian officials, including government members and a lawmaker, are being treated.

JEWS SCALE BACK PURIM FESTIVITIES

The spread of the coronavirus is forcing the cancellation or a scaling back of celebrations for Purim, usually a joyous holiday when Jews dress in colorful costumes and hold parties. The Israeli government banned gatherings of more than 5,000 people, which forced the cancellation of Israel's best-known Purim parade, in the city of Holon. In the United States and Israel, some synagogues sent

Associated Press

congregation members videos of services.

STOCKS STEADY AFTER PLUNGE

Global stock markets rebounded and oil prices recovered some after a torrid day on Monday. Markets in Europe and Asia were higher and stocks on Wall Street also surged. Monday's global sell-off reflected alarm over the potential economic pain in the wake of factory closures and strict controls on travel. Israel, for example, has decided to quarantine all visitors to the country, while Austria says it will be barring entry to most travelers from Italy.

ITALY'S PATIENT NO. 1 GETTING BETTER

Italian doctors celebrated one small victory in their battle against the coronavirus after a 38-year-old man was moved out of intensive care for the first time since he tested positive Feb. 21. He is considered to be the first Italian to have contracted the coronavirus — Patient No. 1. But in the rest of northern Italy, the virus' spread was growing so exponentially that doctors were having to decide who gets priority in care and access to intensive care unit beds. For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough, and the vast majority of people recover. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. □



In this March 9, 2020 photo released by Xinhua News Agency, rescuers place a boy pulled from the rubbles of a collapsed hotel on a stretcher in Quanzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province.

Associated Press

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A 10-year-old boy and his mother have been rescued 52

hours after being trapped in the collapse of a virus quarantine site in southeastern China where 20 people

Mom, son safe after 52 hours trapped in China hotel rubble

have died. Video released by rescuers showed the two being pulled from the debris of the hotel that collapsed on Saturday.

The woman and boy were discovered late Monday night and they were freed around midnight after three hours of painstaking digging.

The hotel in the city of Quanzhou had been a quarantine site for people

exposed to the new coronavirus, which for most people causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The death toll in the collapse rose to 20 on Tuesday, with 10 people missing.

A total of 71 people had

been inside the hotel when it crumbled in mere seconds.

Construction of the building began in 2013 and it was converted into an express hotel in 2018.

Two supermarkets on the first floor were being remodeled, and a pillar reportedly deformed a few minutes before the collapse, Xinhua said Sunday, quoting a district official. □



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Dutch king apologizes for colonial killings in Indonesia

By ANDI JATMIKO and NINIEK KARMINI
Associated Press

BOGOR, Indonesia (AP)

— King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands apologized Tuesday for his country's aggression during its colonial rule of Indonesia and formally recognized the Southeast Asian country's independence date, in his first state visit to the former Dutch colony.

The king's apology was conveyed after he and Queen Maxima were hosted by Indonesian President Joko Widodo and his wife, Iriana, at an official ceremony in the ornate colonial-style presidential palace in Bogor, just outside the capital, Jakarta.

The Netherlands did not initially apologize for its 350 years of colonial rule and aggression until 2013, when the Dutch ambassador expressed remorse for a series of massacres carried out by the Dutch military to crush resistance against colonial rule in Java and Sulawesi islands after Indonesia's 1945 declaration of independence. That apology came only after the victims' widows took the Dutch government to court.

"In line with the previous statement by my government, I would like to express my regret and apologize here for the excessive violence on the part of the Dutch in those years," the king said Tuesday at a joint news conference with Widodo. "I do so with full awareness that the pain and sorrow of the affected families will be felt for generations." Indonesia declared its independence from Dutch colonial rule on Aug. 17, 1945, but the

Netherlands refused to acknowledge it and fought unsuccessfully to maintain control of the lucrative Asian outpost. It finally recognized the country as an independent nation in December 1949. Indonesian authorities claim some 40,000 people were killed during the fighting, while most Dutch historians estimate the dead at about 1,500. A 1968 Dutch report acknowledged "violent excesses" in Indonesia but argued that Dutch troops were conducting a "police action" often incited by guerrilla warfare and terror attacks. The Dutch government has never prosecuted any soldiers for the killings despite a U.N. report condemning the attacks as "deliberate and ruthless" as early as 1948. The 2013 apology by the Dutch ambassador cleared the way for the biggest-ever Dutch trade mission to Indonesia in November 2013, led by Prime Minister Mark Rutte. Subsequent apologies were made by Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders in 2016 and Rutte late last year during visits in Indonesia. But unresolved demands from those affected by past war crimes still loom large over the monarch's current visit. The four-day state visit by the royal couple, who arrived in Jakarta on Monday, aims to deepen economic ties with Indonesia. It's the first trip to Indonesia for the king since he ascended the throne in 2013, and the fourth for the queen, whose previous trips were part of her role as U.N. Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development. □



King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands shakes hands with Indonesian President Joko Widodo, right, after a joint press conference at the presidential palace in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia, Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Associated Press

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U.S. starts troop pullout, seeks end to Afghan leaders' feud

By KATHY GANNON and RAHIM FAIEZ
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

The United States began withdrawing troops from Afghanistan, the U.S. military said Tuesday, taking a step forward on its peace deal with the Taliban while also praising Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's promise to start releasing Taliban prisoners after he had delayed for over a week.

The U.S.-Taliban deal signed Feb. 29 was touted as Washington's effort to end 18 years of war in Afghanistan. The next crucial step was to be intra-Afghan talks in which all factions including the Taliban would negotiate a road map for their country's future.

But Ghani and his main political rival, Abdullah Abdullah, were each sworn in as president in separate ceremonies Monday. Abdullah and the elections complaints commission had charged fraud in last year's vote. The dueling inaugurations have thrown plans for talks with the Taliban into chaos, although Ghani said Tuesday that he'd start putting together a negotiating team.

The disarray on the Afghan government side is indicative of the uphill task facing



In this Monday, March 9, 2020, photo, Afghanistan's Abdullah Abdullah, front left, greets his supporters after being sworn in as president in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Associated Press

Washington's peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad as he tries to get Afghanistan's bickering leadership to come together. In an early Tuesday tweet, Khalilzad said he hoped the two leaders can "come to an agreement on an inclusive and broadly accepted government. We will continue to assist."

U.S. military spokesman in Afghanistan Sonny Leggett said in a statement Tuesday the military had begun its "conditions-based reduction of forces to 8,600 over

135 days." Currently the U.S. has about 13,000 soldiers in Afghanistan — 8,000 of whom are involved in training and advising Afghanistan's National Security Forces, while about 5,000 are involved in anti-terror operations and militarily supporting the Afghan army when they are requested.

Ghani had been dragging his feet on releasing some 5,000 Taliban prisoners, something agreed to in the U.S.-Taliban deal.

Ghani promised Monday to announce a decree to free the prisoners after the U.S. and a number of foreign dignitaries appeared to back his claim to the presidency by sending their representatives to his inauguration.

Taliban officials said late Monday that a flurry of biometric identifications were being conducted on Taliban prisoners, hinting at a mass release, according to prisoners currently in lockup. The Taliban offi-

cials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to talk to the media.

Sohail Shaheen the Taliban's spokesman in Doha where the insurgent group maintains an office, tweeted Tuesday the names of the 5,000 prisoners are with an "American delegation and the list cannot be manipulated," without elaborating.

In his tweet, Shaheen said any prisoners handed over will be verified before being accepted. The Associated Press contacted a Taliban prisoner in Afghanistan's Pul-e-Charkhi Jail on the outskirts of Kabul who said four Taliban had been released Monday and another three Tuesday. The seven had completed their sentence, said Maulvi Niaz Mohammad in a telephone interview. They were not part of the 5,000 on the Taliban prisoner list, he said. Mohammad, who had also been interviewed by The AP in the prison in December, is in telephone contact with the Taliban's Prisoners Commission, which is headed by Maulvi Nooruddin Turani, a former Taliban justice minister and a violent enforcer of the Taliban's strict code of conduct. □

Employee of U.S.-owned hemp farm in Myanmar gets 20 years jail

By PYAE SONE WIN
Associated Press

YANGON (AP) — A court in Myanmar on Tuesday sentenced a local employee of an American-owned hemp farm to 20 years in prison for violating drug laws concerning marijuana.

Shein Latt was one of three people arrested last April when police raided the 20-acre (8-hectare) plantation on an industrial estate in central Myanmar.

Police deemed the operation illegal because the farm was growing cannabis, which is against Myanmar law. Shein Latt said he was responsible for installing the farm's irrigation system.

"I want to say I strongly be-



In the May 7, 2019, file photo, Myanmar national Shein Latt, left, and his boss U.S. national John Fredric Todoroki leave a local court after being arrested for operating a marijuana plantation in Ngazun Township, Mandalay region, central Myanmar.

Associated Press

lieve that he didn't do anything wrong." Thein Than Oo, a lawyer representing Shein Latt, said by phone after the sentencing. "We

will carry out an appeal as soon as possible."

The company behind the enterprise, III M Global Nutraceutical, contended

that the plants are hemp, a non-intoxicating form of cannabis that can be processed into CBD — cannabidiol — a compound that many believe has health benefits.

Marijuana is another form of cannabis and is also a source of CBD. But it has psychoactive effects, causing a high. Myanmar law does not clearly distinguish it from hemp.

The company also said it had permits from the regional government in Mandalay, where the farm was located, to cultivate hemp. The company's main owner, American entrepreneur John Todoroki, was released on bail last July for medical reasons. The court handling his case

earlier this month ordered that his bail of 325 million kyats (\$243,000) be forfeited because he had failed to turn up for several court appearances.

Todoroki's lawyers have been quoted in the Myanmar press as saying they lost touch with their client last November.

A story about Todoroki published last month in the online publication GEN said he had fled to the United States.

The third arrested person, Shunlei Myat Noe, a young Myanmar woman who briefly acted as a translator at the farm, was freed last month. A court dismissed her case after ruling that she bore no responsibility for the farm's operation. □

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In this photo taken Friday, March 5, 2020 a visitor pretends to hold the structure up at the upside-down house in Hartbeespoort, South Africa.

Associated Press

South Africa's 'upside down' house attracts tourists

Associated Press HARTBEESTPOORT, South Africa (AP) — With its roof on the ground and its floor in the air, an upside down house is attracting tourists who want to see the world from different perspective. Located near Hartebeestpoort, about 75 kilo-

meters (47 miles) north of Johannesburg, the house is inverted on the outside and inside. Visitors take pictures of themselves in rooms that have sofas and chairs hanging from the ceiling. The kitchen is also upside down with appliances appearing to defy gravity. □



Relatives in buses arrive to attend the memorial service for the one-year anniversary of the crash of Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET302 in the rural Tulufera area near Bishoftu, south-east of the capital Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Associated Press

Somber events mark first anniversary of Ethiopian crash

By ELIAS MESERET
Associated Press

TULUFERA, Ethiopia (AP) — Grim-faced, visibly grief-stricken, some crying, hundreds of family members gathered Tuesday for a memorial service at the site where one year ago an Ethiopian Airlines jet crashed into the rocky ground, killing all 157 on board.

The area of the disaster, about 40 miles southeast of Addis Ababa, the capital, was closed to the press as buses brought family of the victims to the commemoration, sponsored by Ethiopian Airlines and Boeing, the maker of the jet.

Residents of the rural Tulufera area, near Bishoftu, took a break from fetching water and milking cattle, to remember when the jet

nose-dived into the earth. "It was very chaotic and we were in distress," Tsegaye Workineh, who said he was one of the first people to reach the crash site, told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "It is a sight that I will never forget in my entire life. You're lucky that you haven't seen it. It was very shocking."

Big buses and smaller vehicles arrived on a newly built dirt road for the service where large tents have been erected.

Flight 302 took off from Addis Ababa airport the morning of March 10 last year and the pilots quickly reported problems and sought permission to return to the airport. They struggled but failed to control the plane, which six minutes after takeoff hit the

barren patch of land. The Ethiopian crash came almost five months after a strikingly similar crash in Indonesia of the same model aircraft. Together the two crashes led to a grounding of all Boeing 737 Max jets, more than 380 planes used by more than 50 airlines around the world. Boeing initially expressed confidence that the planes would soon be returned to service, but no date has been set.

In an interim report released Monday, Ethiopian investigators mostly blame Boeing for the crash, saying there were design failures in the flight-control system which repeatedly pushed the nose of the plane down. The report also said Boeing had offered inadequate training for pilots. □

Bus collision in Ghana kills at least 29 people

By FRANCIS KOKUTSE
Associated Press

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) — Two buses burst into flames after colliding in central Ghana, trapping passengers inside and killing at least 29 people early Monday, local government officials said.

The buses collided in the Bono East region near Kintampo, Kintampo North municipal chief executive Micheal Sakodie-Baffoe said.

The vehicles burst into flames after the crash, trapping the passengers inside, local council representative Mathias Taasun said.

Sakodie-Baffoe said the victims' bodies were so badly burned it would be difficult to identify them. The country may hold a mass burial for people who died, he said during a visit to the crash site. □

Venezuela capital sees dueling political rallies

By SCOTT SMITH
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó set off at the head of a march Tuesday aimed at retaking the congress building that has been held by pro-government factions, but the path ahead appeared to be blocked by security forces and government supporters.

The government of President Nicolás Maduro called on its loyalists also to flood the streets, and also announced military exercises to defend the nation's major cities, setting the stage for potential clashes. Guaidó led several hundred people through an opposition-friendly section of Caracas on a course toward downtown, which heavily dominated by supporters of Maduro. State police wearing riot gear were positioned between the opposition march and their destination.

Supporters of the socialist government — dressed in red shirts — also gathered around a stage set



A member of the opposition holds up her handcuffed hands as she joins the start of a rally in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Associated Press

up blasting salsa music. Some 60 nations, led by the United States, recognize Guaidó, head of the congress, as Venezuela's legitimate leader because they view Maduro's 2018 reelection as fraudulent. The government insists that Guaidó no longer is head of the National Assembly, recognizing a dissident

group instead. Attempts by opposition lawmakers led by Guaidó since early January to enter their legislative building in the center of Caracas have been met forcibly by armed civilians and security forces loyal to Maduro. Those attacks drew condemnation Tuesday from the United Nations' top human rights

official. Michelle Bachelet, the U.N.'s high commissioner for human rights, said she was "concerned" about the arrest of oppositions and recent attacks on demonstrators and journalists who covered Guaidó's arrival in Caracas following an international tour that included a White House meeting with President Donald Trump.

In a statement in Geneva, she said her office continues to receive allegations of "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment" at military counterintelligence prisons.

I "call for all parties to act with the heightened sense of purpose that the country deserves, in order to avoid further escalation in political confrontation that could lead to violence," she said.

The country's political and economic crisis has driven more than 4.5 million Venezuelans to migrate from the once-wealthy South American nation, escaping soaring inflation, scarcity of basic goods and unreliable services, such as lights and water.

Guaidó initially garnered wide support with massive crowds across the country after he declared himself interim president last year, but crowds have thinned in recent months.

Tuesday was the first time Guaidó has called for demonstrations since returning from his international tour. □

Mexico president: Anti-femicide protests won't change policy

By PETER ORSI
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Presi-

dent Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Tuesday that recent protests against rising killings of women in Mexico will not change his government's long-term, ground-up approach to dealing with the problem. Asked at his daily news conference whether the outpourings of indignation would have any concrete impact on his administration or result in a change of focus, the president doubled down on his broader policy for tackling all sorts of violence and criminality in the country.

"No, on the contrary, we are going to reinforce the same strategy of addressing the causes that create the violence," López Obrador said, "to seek to live in a better society, to attend to young people, to attend to the countryside, for there



Women march during International Women's Day in Mexico City, Sunday, March 8, 2020. Protests against gender violence in Mexico have intensified in recent years amid an increase in killings of women and girls.

Associated Press

to be no unemployment, for disintegration of families to be avoided, for values to be strengthened."

He spoke two days after an estimated 80,000 women marched through Mexico City and other cities across the country saw smaller demonstrations, and a day

after untold thousands of women and girls skipped work or school in a protest billed as "a day without women" to call attention to those who are killed or disappeared.

Such demonstrations have grown in recent months, especially in the capital,

amid increasing anger over gender-based violence, including a grisly murder-mutilation and the kidnapping of a 7-year-old girl, both in Mexico City.

According to official figures, 3,825 women met violent deaths in 2019, an average of more than 10 per day and a rise of 7% over the previous year. Homicides generally have also been rising for several years straight, dating back to before López Obrador took office in December 2018, though the rate of increase slowed last year. The vast majority of all crimes in the country go unpunished.

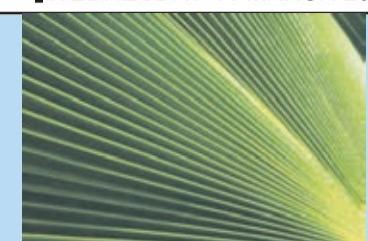
Asked whether the government could present a detailed plan for reducing violence against women, López Obrador responded that his government has a policy on women's rights more broadly.

"If it is not complete or is insufficient or is not disseminated,

is not known, let it be presented again and updated," he said. "Let (Interior Secretary Olga Sánchez Cordero), who coordinates all these actions in defense of women's rights, make a presentation next week, if that works for you." The president called women's movements "very important" and said his government supports them. He also alleged that his political opponents are cynically taking advantage of them to try to hurt his government.

López Obrador noted the extensive reporting on the protests and suggested that demonstrations he led when he was in the opposition were not similarly covered. López Obrador regularly pushes back against critical coverage during news conferences and sometimes speaks derogatorily about media outlets and specific stories. □

LOCAL



Peru's Rotisserie Chicken is Here



EAGLE BEACH — Las Brasas Peruanas is the new kid on the block, part of the restaurant, Asi es mi Peru, at Paradise Beach Villas. Offering authentic Peruvian roasted chicken that gives you a mouthwatering experience, moreover because this is a dish prepared with love by the Peruvian chef, presented with pride by the Peruvian owner Roxana van Nes and her Dutch-Surinam husband Jan van Nes. You will encounter soft and juicy meat, a crispy skin and that special taste because of a 24-hour marinade_ a must-try.

"Pollo a la Brasa, roasted chicken, is a very popular dish in Peru and the first thing my wife does when she visits her home country is paying a visit to Pardos, a well-known chicken rotisserie in Lima. She realized she never found a place like this on the island of Aruba", says Jan. "The seasoning makes the difference and when it lacks the chicken will be dry and without taste. That was our motivation to bring our own charcoal burning rotisserie from Peru, eco-friendly as it traps heat and steam internally meaning there is no smoke." In the United States roasted chicken is a popular dish, now visitors can have a taste of their favorite home-dish, but with the Peruvian twist.



Also Take-Out

"Our chicken is marinated 24 hours in a special mix of Peruvian herbs and spices including garlic, cumin and Peruvian pepper and roasted for one hour and 10 minutes while preserving its full flavor. Another important element of our newest product is that the price is more than reasonable, thus giving our clientele an alternative to our establishment Asi es mi Peru. And not to forget: the Pollo a la Brasa has a take-out option too." Jan continues giving an example of a table of eight persons that came to eat-in and left happy because of the quality of the chicken and side dishes as well as with the bill. "It is ideal for families with children, kids love roasted chicken. Normally it comes with a fresh garden salad and fries, but we offer as well 'chaufa' (Peru's version of Chinese Fried Rice) and other side dishes. There will be more surprises in the future. Original combos with Inca cola, very well-known in Peru, are on the menu. We just opened and we already sense that it is a niche we found." To make the happy meal complete there is home-made ice-cream, for sure a hit with the little ones.

A family-oriented restaurant is what Asi es mi Peru strives for, and with this extra value of delicious roasted chicken they make this a fact.

Asi es mi Peru and Las Brasas Peruanas are open for lunch and dinner, check out their Facebook page: AsíEsMiPerú or website www.asiesmiperuenaruba.com. □



Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today welcomes readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like on Valentine's Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: Aruba to me is (Email: news@arubatoday.com)

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Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received some great pictures from our visitors who enjoyed the magnificent view of yesterday's Halo. (The ring around the sun is caused by ice crystals within thin cirrus clouds. The refraction causes light to shine into a ring). □



Donald Alhart
Picture taken around the pool at the Marriott Surf Club.



Jamie Jo Alton From Ontario Canada

The NEW Tierra del Sol Restaurant: A fresh contemporary scenic surprise



NOORD — The wave of Caribbean, European and American flavors. Delight in fresh cuisine where you can be sure to dine with the best panorama of the island. Surrounded by the golf greens, blue ocean and romantic setting of Tierra del Sol's resort pool and cool new restaurant you are in for a successful date, family gathering, work meeting Just any occasion. That is the great thing about the newly re-opened restaurant at Tierra del Sol: it is for everyone and every occasion!

They call it Aruba's first "Premium Casual Dining" experience. It does do right to that concept but there is so much more to it. The restaurant at Tierra del Sol transformed into a place of light, fresh looks, elegant though laid-back setting and the choice between inside and outside dining. Those two areas flow into each other in a natural way. Families with children dine on the big tables, some business men take a quick bite inside and a group of golfers enjoy a meal after their game. It is a fantastic concept that is accessible for all without losing its essence: great food in a stylish interior design.

Inspired by nature the restaurant is letting in the outside while the menu reflects what guests are looking for nowadays: variation, adults & kid's choices, great prices with a friendly service.

12 Appetizers, 3 soups, 8 salad bowls, homemade pastas (5) and pizzas (4), 13 wraps-sandwiches-burgers, 8 entrees (2 sides included), a kids menu and of course sweets make up for an extensive menu with something for everyone. A beverage menu offers 11 beers and drafts, homemade sangria, bubbles and wines, premium



cocktails and spirits. You can keep coming back and try something else every time.

"Casual dining is hot in the United States now because people do not always want to dress up, sit for hours on a table and get a big check presented at the end. We give an answer to the need of quality food in a modern, cool environment with friendly prices and service," says Marketing & Sales Executive, Ghislaine de Windt K. In short: you can't go wrong, come over and try it out. □

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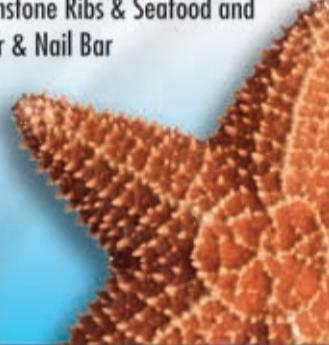
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Team Aruba readies for 2020 with first test session of the season

ORLANDO, USA — Team Aruba is back stateside after enjoying the off season back home in their island paradise, the One Happy Island. They readied the Aruba.com Mustang at their shop in Union, S.C., then made the trek to Florida for a two day test session.

The team will pursue the 2020 NHRA Mountain Motor Pro Stock schedule, which includes Charlotte, Richmond, Chicago, Denver, Brainerd and St. Louis. The Four-Wide Nationals will kick off their 2020 tour, April 24-26.

"We've thoroughly enjoyed racing with NHRA, so we're excited to expand our schedule there this year and grow our fan base," began Ven Eman, team owner. "Racing with NHRA provides us with more opportunities to promote our sponsors and our island. We're able to take our brand into new markets and run before a larger audience. It's an exciting time for Mountain Motor Pro Stock and our team."

About Team Aruba

TEAM ARUBA (www.TeamAruba.com), probably the best Pro Stock team to ever come out of the Caribbean, (but certainly the most popular and creative), is advertising one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, Aruba. TEAM ARUBA's roots come from The Brute Racing on the island paradise of Aruba. The Brute Racing Organization was founded in 1986 while



building their first racecar, called "The Brute", a 1979 FORD Fairmont, powered by a 460 cobra jet twin turbo motor.

During its debut, this racecar, driven by André Loonstra became the island's champion in the Super Gas Category. That same year The Brute

participated in the Snowbird Nationals which was a 3-weekend event.

Follow Team Aruba on Facebook and Twitter. Find race results, team updates, videos and photos. Also leave your comments to cheer on Team Aruba! □

Have a hippity-hoppity holiday on an island

OHIO, USA — This year, Easter falls on Sunday, April 12, 2020. So, make your menu and decorate your dwelling while there's still time. Would you like to be bombarded with bunnies? Rabbits can be found in a variety of breeds but usually in white on the island of Barbados, according to www.barbadospocketguide.com.

The Cottontail rabbit adorned with a black patch on their neck is found in Aruba, according to www.visitaruba.com.

Flying kites is a popular pastime year-round on many Caribbean islands, but seems to peak around Easter in islands like Bermuda, Barbados, Trinidad, St. Kitts & Nevis, and Grenada, ac-

cording to www.tripsavvy.com.

Easter season in Jamaica is time for the island's premier local food event; The Trellawny Yam Festival. Yummy!

Enjoy the Cayman Islands Sailing Club's annual Easter Regatta Round the Island Race. Sounds like rabbit-racing fun. The Easter Bunny hops in to greet children at many of Cayman's larger hotels.

How interesting that a dog is in the running to be the next Cadbury bunny—that will be one funny bunny. And I voted for the two-legged dog from New Richmond, Ohio, in the USA, to be the 2020 candy canine. Bark for the bunny! Lt. Dan

is named after the Forrest Gump character who lost his legs overseas in combat. What animal lover can resist a disabled dog wearing long ears and a fluffy tail. Cadbury issued a casting call for all pets to enter the contest to become the next Cadbury Bunny. Lt. Dan the dog is competing against a mini-horse, llama, pig, hamster, duck and two cats. The winner of the contest will star in Cadbury's new TV commercial and receive \$5,000. The Cadbury Bunny Tryouts Contest is sponsored by The Hershey Company in Hershey, PA. Vote at www.bunnytryouts.cadburyusa.com.

How interesting that a giant bunny carries a huge basket and hops down the

bunny trail to deliver colored eggs to children. Aren't the hens steamed? It's hard work laying eggs, only to give the credit to a happy hare. Plastic lookalike eggs have replaced boiled eggs in the annual Easter egg hunts. The chickens don't have to work as long during the season, but please give the poor cluckers a raise and retirement benefits.

What's for Easter Dinner?
Easter dinner on the islands is likely to include fish. And in many English-speaking nations Easter buns, a tropical version of the English hot cross bun that can be spiced with cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg, filled with raisins, currents and dried fruit, and topped with cheddar cheese or icing in the shape of a cross.

"In early Jewish history, lambs were sacrificed as offerings to God and served regularly as part of the Passover feast. Then, when Jesus died during Passover, he represented the ultimate sacrifice for sin, the "lamb of God," and the animal evolved into a potent symbol for Christians, especially at Easter. Many Orthodox Christians still follow the Jewish Orthodox customs of not eating any pork, so lamb takes center stage at their Easter meal. Others, however, wouldn't imagine Easter without

ham. Symbolizing "good luck" for many cultures around the world, it made a fitting meal at all sorts of feasts and celebrations, according to the Encyclopedia of Religion. Some historians believe Easter's spring timing also factored into the choice: Farmers typically slaughtered pigs in the fall and then took several months to smoke the pork, making a ham ready just in time for Easter dinner." www.goodhousekeeping.com.

The Real Deal of Easter
"The Bible makes no mention of a long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to well-behaved children on Easter Sunday; nevertheless, the Easter bunny has become a prominent symbol of Christianity's most important holiday," according to an article at www.history.com.

Easter is a deeply religious holiday for many, packed with significance in the resurrection story of Christ. Good Friday marks Jesus's crucifixion and Easter Sunday celebrates his resurrection. The crucifixion of Jesus is recorded in the New Testament books, known as the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Blessings to all my peeps at Easter! □



Melissa Martin, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in U.S.

Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 11

California Lighthouse Experience

- Climb to the top of the California Lighthouse to see the best views of the island!
- From 9 AM till 5 PM
- Hudishibana 2, Westpunt
- Facebook Aruba Walking Tours



Sunday 15

King of the Ring Event 2020

- A One on One Motorcycle Drifting Event Where Bikers Will Compete Each other in a Octagon Ring and see Who will Win ,Who will Dominate & Who will be Declared King of the Ring!
- 2pm-10pm
- Palo Marga Racetrack
- Facebook: Easi Coat Aruba

Thursday 12

'A Touch of Aruba'

- It's showtime! Every Thursday Nico Connor together with NLG Dancers will heat up the night with the Sweetpan music and cultural show.
- 7:30 – 9:30 PM
- Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort
- Facebook: Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort



Monday 16

Pinchos Grill & Bar

- Enjoy a unique experience during sunset or at night over the clear blue waters of Aruba at this chic grill and bar on a pier. Specialized on Grilled seafood, steaks and much more. All you need is a cocktail, a nice breeze, delicious food and great company!
- 5pm-12am
- Surfside Marina, Oranjestad
- Facebook: Pinchos Grill & Bar

Friday 13

Epicurean Night at LGS

- Join us at LGS for a new dining experience. Discover EPICUREAN every Friday Night.
- Sink your teeth into a family-style four-course dinner and wine tasting featuring succulent cuts of beef and tastes from across the globe. For more information or reservation, please call 5236195 or book online at www.opentable.com.
- 6pm – 11pm
- L.G. Smith's Steak and Chop House, Renaissance
- Facebook: L.G. Smith's Steak and Chop House



Saturday 14

Aruba Doet 2020

- It's time for the island's biggest volunteer work of the year 'Aruba Doet 2020'. Your help is needed. There are 194 projects to choose from. From gardening to brushing to building there is something that best suits you.
- 9am – 2pm (starting Friday March 13th)
- All around the island
- Facebook: Aruba doet

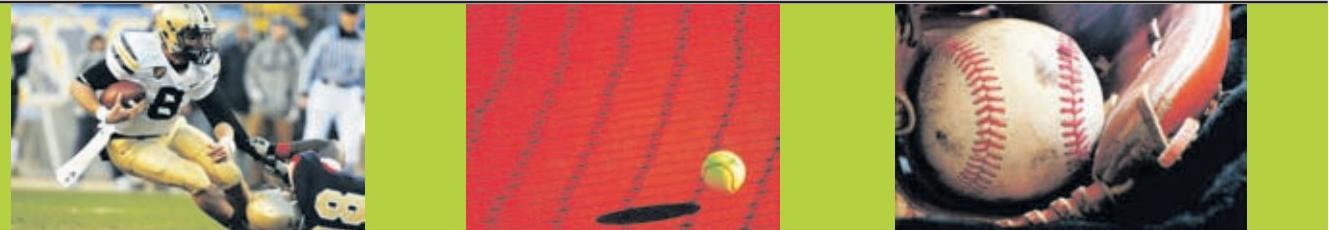


Tuesday 17

St. Patrick's Day Party

- MooMba Beach will celebrate St. Patrick's Day (March 17) with a bang! As of 2pm there will be live entertainment: DJ BamfStarz (2pm), Robin & The Rebels (7pm) and DJ Bradley Fonseca (10pm). The event is sponsored by Aruba Trading Company, so expect great deals on Bud Light, Tullamore DEW, Brogans and WestStreet.
- From 2pm
- Moomba Beach
- Facebook: Moomba Beach

SPORTS



NBA, MLB, NHL, MLS closing locker rooms amid virus scare

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — The NBA, NHL, Major League Baseball and Major League Soccer are closing access to locker rooms and clubhouses to all non-essential personnel, including media, in response to the coronavirus crisis, the leagues announced in a joint statement Monday night.

They said they made the decision "after consultation with infectious disease and public health experts."

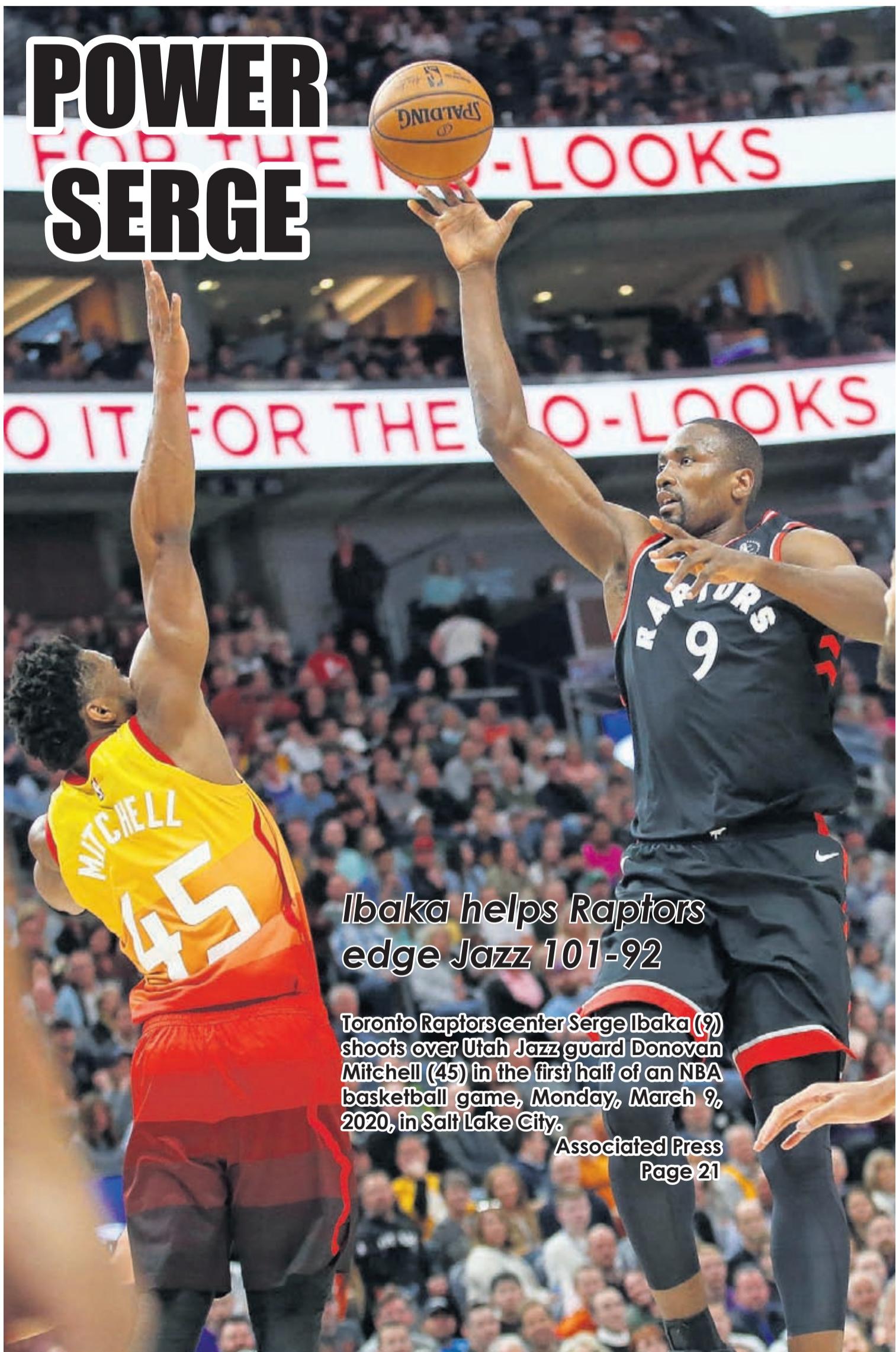
The NBA, in a call with teams earlier Monday, stressed that the move is not to ban reporters but to ensure the safety of players and staff in those areas.

The statement, in part, read: "Given the issues that can be associated with close contact in pre- and post-game settings, all team locker rooms and clubhouses will be open only to players and essential employees of teams and team facilities until further notice. Media access will be maintained in designated locations outside of the locker room and clubhouse setting."

The changes, which the leagues say are temporary, will begin Tuesday — though some NHL teams began putting them into use this past weekend and the Buffalo Sabres did the same on Monday night. The NBA said interviews with players would continue in different settings, stressing a gap of 6-to-8 feet between reporters and interview subjects.

Continued on Page 23

POWER SERGE



Ibaka helps Raptors edge Jazz 101-92

Toronto Raptors center Serge Ibaka (9) shoots over Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell (45) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 9, 2020, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press
Page 21

Brady uncertainty overshadows other free agency options

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

It probably makes sense when a six-time Super Bowl champion, and a quarterback to boot, enters free agency that his every move overshadows the rest of the available players.

It does get nonsensical, of course, when Tom Brady saying he's headed on a family vacation draws headlines and massive social media reaction. Hey, folks, virtually every NFL player goes on holiday in the offseason. You can bet a few of the other free agents in this crop are doing so right now.

Naturally, Brady's situation is the most intriguing of them all. Perhaps even more so than Peyton Manning's when he became free from the Colts in 2013.

The bond between Brady and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft has been strong. Remember that Kraft defended his QB and basically opposed all his fellow owners during the deflated footballs saga that followed the 2014 AFC title game. Minus a salary cap, Kraft would favor paying any number Brady mentioned.

Even with the cap, New England has almost \$44 million of room.

Brady's loyalty to his coach seems to have come into question, not just since New England's season ended in the wild-card round, but in previous years.

So maybe moving on —



In this Jan. 4, 2020, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady speaks to the media following an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Tennessee Titans in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

and proving that he has been the main catalyst in the Patriots' championship run — is very enticing to Brady.

Also consider the finances if the Patriots don't sign him before free agency begins March 18. There's the possibility the team would need to pay a substantial "penalty," under collective bargaining rules, that would cut deeply into its salary cap room. Should Brady command a \$30 million salary for 2020 in a new contract, plus that penalty money, the cap hit would be humongous.

As for landing spots should the most successful quarterback of our time — and pretty much league history

— walk away from Foxborough, there are plenty. Yep, even for a QB who will turn 43 in August; more teams have been speculated in the competition, should it exist, than not involved.

Indeed, about the only teams not mentioned as possible suitors are the Kansas City Chiefs (Patrick Mahomes), Baltimore Ravens (Lamar Jackson), Seattle Seahawks (Russell Wilson), Green Bay Packers (Aaron Rodgers), Philadelphia Eagles (Carson Wentz) and New Orleans Saints (they aren't dropping Drew Brees for Brady).

There even are the wild projections of San Francisco as the 49ers get turned off of Jimmy Garoppolo —

who led them to the Super Bowl last season — or the Texans, who have Deshaun Watson; Brady does had a history of winning with Houston coach Bill O'Brien. Meanwhile, a bevy of other standouts are on the market, not to mention a load of quarterbacks with plenty of starting experience (and some success).

The QB market features Philip Rivers, Jameis Winston, Andy Dalton, Teddy Bridgewater, Dak Prescott, Ryan Tannehill and Marcus Mariota.

Many of their moves could depend on where Brady winds up. There already are betting odds available not only on where Brady plays in 2020 but which quarter-

back would land in New England if Brady leaves. Meanwhile, the QB carousel is obscuring the horizon. If you can look beyond the passers, there are some playmakers who could have a major impact wherever they go.

Seattle edge rusher Jadeveon Clowney has to whet appetites in cities where a sackmaster is a desperate need. Clowney, who was dealt from Houston to Seattle last year and played well when healthy for the Seahawks, hardly is the only disrupter on defense who is available. Chris Jones helped the Chiefs win the Super Bowl. Tampa Bay's Shaq Barrett is a tackling machine. Jacksonville's Yannick Ngakoue is a consistent pass rush threat who also can play the run. Justin Simmons and Byron Jones are more than reliable defensive backs.

The upcoming draft is so deep in receivers that free agents at that position such as Amari Cooper and Emmanuel Sanders might not find the price they seek. But running back isn't nearly as loaded for the draft, and with his performance last season — particularly in leading the Titans to the AFC title game — Derrick Henry should be at the top of many lists if Tennessee doesn't franchise him.

Not that anyone would know about it with every Brady rumor getting massive social media and air play. □

Back in game: NFL announces partnership with 2K Sports

By JOE REEDY
AP Sports Writer

Gamers have long hoped that 2K Sports would return to producing NFL video games. Those wishes will come true next year. The NFL and 2K announced Tuesday a multiyear partnership for games. It's the first time since 2004 that 2K has produced an NFL game.

"The league has been expanding its presence into gaming and it has been an important focus to us. It

felt natural for us to be reviving our partnership with 2K," said Rachel Hoagland, the league's vice president and head of gaming & esports. "We've worked with them in the past and when we looked at broadening our portfolio, it made sense." The contract covers NFL-themed and non-simulation video games, meaning 2K won't be producing a direct competitor to Electronic Art's "Madden" series. The NFL 2K5 title remains one

of the more popular football games among long-time gamers because it was ahead of its time with strategy and realism. 2K officials say they remain in early development stages for titles and concepts.

It might be along the lines of a seven-on-seven game that mimics backyard or neighborhood football. Something similar was produced in the early 2000s by Sony and EA.

"This has been quite a long time coming," said Jason

Argent, 2K senior VP for sports strategy and licensing. "We're excited to get going and make some fun games." Since last producing an NFL game, 2K has made the biggest impact with its NBA game, which remains one of the top-selling titles each year. Its WWE series has also increased in popularity in recent years. The first NFL-themed games from 2K will debut in mid-2021. That should be shortly after the debut of new gen-

eration gaming consoles from Sony and Microsoft. Whether the 2K-NFL partnership will serve as a springboard to a deeper relationship remains to be seen. The league contract with EA for simulation games is up for renewal after the 2021 season.

Electronic Arts said in a statement that their agreement with the NFL has "allowed for non-exclusive development of non-simulation games on various platforms." □

Theodore scores in OT as Golden Knights beat Oilers 3-2

By The Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)

— Shea Theodore scored 2:13 into overtime and the Vegas Golden Knights increased their slim Pacific Division lead by beating the second-place Edmonton Oilers 3-2 on Monday night.

Theodore picked the top corner off a feed from Jonathan Marchessault, who scored the tying goal with eight minutes left in the third period.

Nicolas Roy also scored for the Golden Knights (39-24-8), who improved to 11-2-0 in their past 13 games. They are three points up on Edmonton for the division lead.

Alex Chiasson and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored for the Oilers (37-24-9), who played without captain Connor McDavid due to an illness.

JETS 4, COYOTES 2

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP)

— Nikolaj Ehlers had a goal and two assists to lead Winnipeg over Arizona in a matchup with Western Conference playoff implications.

Cody Eakin broke a 2-all tie at 11:33 of the third period when he picked up the puck and backhanded a shot past Arizona's Darcy Kuemper. It was Eakin's first goal since he was acquired in a trade with Vegas on



Edmonton Oilers' Ryan Nugent-Hopkins (93), Oscar Klefbom (77) and goaltender Mikko Koskinen (19) keep Vegas Golden Knights' Paul Stastny (26) away during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Monday, March 9, 2020, in Edmonton, Alberta.

Associated Press

Feb. 21.

Mark Scheifele added an empty-netter, and defenceman Tucker Poolman had a goal and an assist for Winnipeg. Connor Hellebuyck made 36 saves as the Jets moved into the top wild-card spot in the West with 78 points, four more than the Coyotes.

Nick Schmaltz scored both goals for Arizona, which squandered a 2-0 lead. Kuemper stopped 30 shots.

KINGS 3, AVALANCHE 1

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mikey Anderson scored his first

career goal, Jonathan Quick made 21 saves and the Kings earned their sixth straight win.

Austin Wagner and Alex Iafallo also scored for the Kings, who are on their longest winning streak of the season. Los Angeles is 7-1-1 in its past nine home games, including five straight wins. Pierre-Edouard Bellemare scored and Pavel Francouz made 32 saves for the Avalanche, who could have moved into first place in the Central Division with a win. Colorado lost for just

the second time in its past 12 road games.

Avalanche center Nathan MacKinnon did not return after sustaining a lower-body injury in the second period.

BST. LOUIS (AP) — Brett Connolly scored early in the third period and Chris Driedger stopped 26 shots, leading Florida to the win. Mike Hoffman also scored for Florida, and Aleksa Saarela picked up the first two assists of his career. He has played in nine regular-season games for the Panthers.

Driedger made his third consecutive start after being held out of the lineup for almost two months with a lower-body injury. He is 2-0-1. Colton Parayko scored for St. Louis. Jordan Binnington recorded 32 saves.

Florida moved within one point of idle Carolina for the final playoff spot in the East.

SABRES 3, CAPITALS 2, SO

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Dominik Kahun scored the decisive goal in the seventh round of a shootout, and the Buffalo Sabres stopped a six-game slide.

Sabres goaltender Linus Ullmark blocked 33 shots through overtime and six of seven shootout attempts in his first game in six weeks. He had been sidelined by a right leg injury.

Jack Eichel snapped a career-worst seven-game point drought and rookie Victor Olofsson also scored for Buffalo.

Alex Ovechkin had a goal and an assist, and Dmitry Orlov also scored as Washington erased a 2-0 deficit in the third period. It was Ovechkin's 48th goal of the season, tying him with Boston's David Pastrnak for the NHL lead.

Despite the loss, the Capitals earned a point to move ahead of idle Philadelphia atop the Metropolitan Division. □

NFL teams propose 7 rules changes, including extra officials



In this Nov. 3, 2019, file photo, officials discuss a call during the first half of an NFL football game between the Cleveland Browns and the Denver Broncos in Denver.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Two NFL teams have suggested changes to game officiating, including a

"sky judge" utilized by colleges, among seven rules proposals that will be presented to team owners

later this month. Also proposed is revamping overtime to minimize the coin toss impact and returning OT to its original 15-minute length, and providing alternatives to the onside kick — which is considered a dangerous play — for a scoring team to attempt to keep the ball.

The Ravens and Chargers are seeking what they call a booth umpire as an eighth game official, as well as adding a senior technology adviser to the referee to assist the officiating.

Citing competitive equity, pace of play, player health and safety, Baltimore and Los Angeles proposed the

adviser "being positioned somewhere other than the playing field, with full communication to on-field officials and access to a television monitor that displays all broadcast angles provided through the NFL's network independence system." The technology adviser would be in the replay booth, able to access video and have the ability to hear and communicate with game officials. He will have had on-field experience as a game official and will advise the officiating crew on game administration; ball possession; touching of a loose ball, the out-of-bounds line, goal line, or end line; loca-

tion of the football relative to the out-of-bounds line, line of scrimmage, first-down spot or goal line; down by contact; face mask and unnecessary roughness against a defenseless player; number of players on the field at the snap; any other information requested by the referee. As for the onside kick replacement, the Eagles would like for a team to maintain possession after a score by substituting one offensive play on fourth-and-15 at its 25-yard line. Converting the play means keeping possession. But the true onside kick still could be attempted instead. □



Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray, right, drives to the basket as Milwaukee Bucks guard Pat Connaughton defends in the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 9, 2020, in Denver.

Associated Press

Nuggets send short-handed Bucks to 3rd straight loss

By The Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Jamal Murray scored 21 points, Paul Millsap had 20 and Jerami Grant added 19 as the Denver Nuggets sent the short-handed Milwaukee Bucks to their third straight loss and fourth in five games, 109-95 on Monday night. The NBA-leading Bucks (53-12) were without reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo, who has a knee injury, as well as starters Eric Bledsoe and Khris Middleton and key backup George Hill. Altogether, the Bucks played without their top six scorers, and despite a valiant effort by their backups led by Kyle Korver (23 points), the team sorely missed that firepower during its fourth consecutive road loss and third in a row on this trip. The Bucks were swept by Denver in the two-game season series. The Nuggets won 127-115 in Milwaukee on Jan. 31.

RAPTORS 101, JAZZ 92

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Serge Ibaka and Pascal Siakam each scored 27 points, and Toronto beat Utah for its fourth straight victory. Kyle Lowry added 21 points and seven assists as the Raptors used a 53-34 advantage on the glass to improve to 21-4 since Jan. 15. Ibaka grabbed 13 rebounds and Siakam finished with 11 boards and eight assists. Joe Ingles had 20 points and six assists for the Jazz, who had won five in a row. Royce O'Neale added 15 points and seven

rebounds. Toronto played much of the game without Norman Powell, who sprained his left ankle two minutes in. Powell averaged 34 points on 57% shooting over his previous two games.

HAWKS 143, HORNETS 138, 2 OT

ATLANTA (AP) — De'Andre Hunter broke a tie by sinking three free throws with 13.3 seconds remaining in the second overtime, and Atlanta outlasted Charlotte following a controversial finish to the first extra period. Trae Young had 31 points and 16 assists for the Hawks, and John Collins added 28 points and 11 rebounds. He shot 12 of 13 from the field. Hunter finished with 13 points and 11 rebounds. Terry Rozier led the Hornets with a career-high 40 points.

After Hunter's clutch trip to the line, Rozier missed a 3-pointer. Two free throws by Cam Reddish, who had 22 points, iced the win. Two reviews by the officials at the end of the first overtime produced different results. Following the first review, officials said Rozier was fouled by Atlanta's Treveon Graham with 0.8 seconds remaining. Before Rozier had a chance to attempt two free throws with the score tied, Atlanta's Lloyd Pierce registered a coach's challenge. This time, the officials ruled Rozier was not fouled. Young missed a last-gasp jumper for Atlanta. □



Cleveland Cavaliers coach J.B. Bickerstaff gives directions to his team during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in New Orleans, Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.

Associated Press

Cavs reward Bickerstaff with contract after strong start

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — J.B. Bickerstaff's impressive start with the Cavaliers has been rewarded.

Bickerstaff, who has Cleveland playing its best basketball this season since taking over when John Beilein suddenly resigned last month, agreed to a multi-year contract with the team on Tuesday. The Cavs announced the deal with Bickerstaff shortly before their game in Chicago, where they started a six-game trip.

Although they still have one of the NBA's worst records, the Cavs have shown major improvement in a short period under Bickerstaff. They're 5-5 going into Tuesday's game against the Bulls and the Cavs have had more energy and exhibited more togetherness than at any time for Beilein. Bickerstaff was promoted after Beilein stepped down after 54 games in his first season. He had been serving as an associate head coach under the 67-year-old Beilein, who cited personal health issues as one of his reasons for leaving a job he thought he was ready to handle.

"We are very fortunate to have someone of J.B.'s caliber and basketball pedigree lead our franchise as

head coach," said general manager Koby Altman. "His wealth of experience, coupled with the respect he has garnered around the NBA and with this team, has made for a seamless transition from associate head coach to head coach.

"The amount of grit and determination instilled in our players, from both an accountability and attention to detail standpoint over this short period of time, has been met with admiration, respect and overall excitement throughout our entire locker room. We have already observed the impact he has made on our players through his first 10 games as head coach and we are looking forward to seeing just how far he can effectively drive our developing culture and lead this franchise into the future."

Over the weekend, the Cavs won consecutive tight games over Denver and San Antonio. Earlier this season, the club's inexperience would cripple the Cavs in the closing minutes of games. Cleveland has also won three games against teams with over .500 records and the Cavs have improved their scoring and assist totals.

The 41-year-old Bickerstaff previously coached in Houston and Memphis before coming to Cleveland.

He led the Rockets to the playoffs in 2015-16.

"Our players have done a phenomenal job of maintaining a high level of professionalism and growing maturity, of which I have been very appreciative," Bickerstaff said. "I also take great pride and consider it an honor and privilege to live and coach in this community with my family, in front of this fan base and for this franchise. It has truly been a blessing and I look forward to the journey ahead." Bickerstaff was always seen as the eventual successor to Beilein, but he never expected things to move so quickly. Bickerstaff did not get the "interim" tag when he replaced Beilein, a sign that the Cavs were comfortable with the plan Altman hatched when he interviewed Bickerstaff last summer.

Cleveland's players seem more relaxed under Bickerstaff, whose father, Bernie, was a longtime NBA coach and currently advises for the Cavs. The younger Bickerstaff worked in the past with Cavs star forward Kevin Love, who has played well lately.

Following Sunday's win over the Spurs, Bickerstaff said the Cavs are bonding and making the most of a season once spiraling downward. □

PGA Tour dealing with more attention off the course

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.

(AP) — Such is the clamor around the PGA Tour that Commissioner Jay Monahan spoke for 45 minutes Tuesday before anyone mentioned Tiger Woods. If it's not the proposed Premier Golf League, promising riches to top players willing to leave the tour, then it's whether the Dell Match Play in Texas will still be played in two weeks because of the coronavirus outbreak, and what that means for the rest of the season.

Patrick Reed can't seem to make it through a tournament without someone heckling him over his sand-scraping incident in the Bahamas.

Another player, Scott Piercy, lost two contract endorsements last week for a social media post mocking Pete Buttigieg's sexual orientation.

Those were among the topics in a week that began with the tour announcing a new nine-year media rights deal said to be worth just over \$7 billion and ends with the winner of The Players Championship getting a record \$2.7 million.

As for Woods? He's not playing this week — the fourth straight week he is sitting out — which raises a mixture of mystery and concern over the status of his health.

Monahan already has enough on his plate.

Perhaps it's no small wonder he began his news conference by referencing his first year as commissioner in 2017 and the questions he faced that ranged from the next television deal to the lucrative FedEx Cup to

pace of play. So much of it emanated from the rights deal, which gives the tour four major companies in CBS, NBC, ESPN (streaming)

the Premier Golf League, though not entirely, because the proposed league with significant Saudi funding is geared toward guar-

view on Monday when he was grilled on hypothetical situations involving the coronavirus. He quickly shifted back to the media

said. Golf was far less complicated just three months ago.

The tour had reached broad agreements on a big chunk of the media negotiations.

The Presidents Cup was about to begin in Australia. Woods was the playing captain, coming off a record-tying 82nd career PGA Tour victory, and he played great at Royal Melbourne.

Finally, a question about Woods.

A large photo of him was on a wall to the right of where Monahan spoke, and he was asked how dependent the tour was on him playing.

That was one of the easier questions.

"Not only does it make an impact on golf fans, it reaches all tentacles of the sports marketplace worldwide," Monahan said.

It was a big deal when Woods said his back was not quite ready because he has only played twice this year, and Woods has been saying that he'll be playing less instead of more. Monahan shared a story from Ben Crane, who once said Woods inspired kids who were involved in other sports to switch to golf. And now Woods is effectively competing against the athletes he created.

"So his presence is here, literally, even if he's not here playing the tournament," he said. "And the way I look at Tiger is that will always be the case."

His legacy is something that will always be celebrated the next 30, 40, 50 years, or in perpetuity."And 50 years from now, other problems will arise. Those will be someone else's headaches.□



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, reacts after missing a putt on the 15th green during the third round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament, Saturday, March 7, 2020, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

and Discovery (direct-to-consumer for international markets) and raises the revenue from such a deal by some 70%.

That eventually trickles down to the players. How much remains to be seen, though Monahan referenced the \$15 million purse at The Players — the richest in golf history — and said, "I see us getting to \$25 million, and I see that certainly through the term (of the rights deal), if not earlier in the term."

He also suggested the \$70 million bonus structure — \$60 million from the FedEx Cup postseason, \$10 million from the Wyndham Rewards for the regular season — could top \$100 million.

That would seem to counter

anteed money regardless of how a player performs. Even if the league doesn't get off the ground — and there doesn't appear to be much momentum — the chatter now is how the tour can look after its stars.

Monahan said he was "encouraged by the response that our players have had in our discussions."

He was equally vague on the other seven questions related to the league, including whether players who joined would no longer be part of the PGA Tour.

"If we got to that point in time, we would take measures to vigilantly protect this business model," he said.

Monahan had a brusque

rights deal and thanked the hosts for having him on. The immediate future of golf and the virus is complicated because the PGA Tour runs six circuits — three based in the U.S., one each in Canada, Latin America and China — and thus it becomes a "market-to-market" situation.

The China tour already has postponed the start of its season.

The World Golf Championships event in Austin, Texas, is in two weeks. And while the South by Southwest film festival has been canceled, the Dell Match Play attendance is much smaller, spread out over an entire golf course and "we feel like we have support to continue to move forward with the event," Monahan

House asks comptroller general to study minor leagues

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House of Representatives by voice vote approved legislation Tuesday to have the comptroller general of the U.S. study baseball's minor leagues, which are trying to fend off a contraction proposal from major league clubs.

The bill calls on the comptroller general to "evaluate the social, economic, and historic contributions that minor league baseball has made to American life and culture."

Major League Baseball and the National Association of Professional Baseball

Leagues, which governs the minors, are negotiating a Professional Baseball Agreement to replace the deal that expires after this season. MLB's proposal would drop the big league affiliation of 42 minor league teams and eliminate short-season leagues

not held at major league training complexes.

The current PBA guarantees a minimum 160 affiliations.

"Baseball has a major economic and social impact in communities such as my hometown of Idaho Falls," said Rep. Mike Simpson, an

Idaho Republican.

MLB and the minors last met Feb. 20, and talks are expected to continue into the summer. The majors already have unilaterally announced increases in the pay of players with minor league contracts starting in 2021.□

Virus scare

Continued from Page 18

"I don't know that we have our arms around how significant of an issue this is at this point, so if the league is recommending or their policy is we want to take step by step type precautions, then we want to go along with that," Texas Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said.

It is unclear how long the new policies will last.

"No disrespect, but that's the last thing I'm worried about," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said prior to Denver's NBA game against Milwaukee on Monday night.

"I think it's dangerous for everybody," Rangers pitcher Edinson Volquez said. "Somebody could have it, you talk to a guy, you go home, maybe you transfer that to your kids and wife and family. So I think it's a good idea for now. Probably later, hopefully we can get together again. But for now, we have to take care of that."

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. In mainland China, where the virus first exploded, more than 80,000 people have been diagnosed and more than 58,000 have so far recovered.

"Roses are red, Violets are blue, Wash your hands! WASH YOUR HANDS!" Enes Kanter of the Boston Celtics wrote on Twitter.

Meanwhile, there is already a clear sense of the new normal in the U.S.

The Miami Heat held their annual gala at a theater in Miami Beach on Monday night, albeit a bit differ-



- In this Oct. 11, 2016, file photo, Texas Rangers pitcher Sam Dyson, left, packs a bag in the locker room at the baseball park in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

ently than usual. The team's three NBA championship trophies were near the entrance — with someone standing by with a bottle of hand sanitizer.

And guests, when they arrived, were offered champagne by some attendants, more hand sanitizer by others.

"Until the league says something else, we are business as usual with a tremendous amount of caution and prevention to make sure everybody's safe," Heat President Pat Riley said Monday night. "But also, educating them that they've got to do the same thing."

The NBA held a call with team medical staffs later Monday night and scheduled a Wednesday call between league officials and team owners to discuss next steps. The NBA told teams last week to prepare for the possibility of playing games in empty arenas, something the game's biggest star — Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James — insists he does not want to see.

"I doubt that that's going to happen," Riley said. "But you have to be prepared." It could happen in at least one NHL arena. Late Monday, California's Santa Clara County announced a ban of all large gatherings of at least 1,000 people for the rest of the month.

The policy would affect three San Jose Sharks home games, and the Sharks said in a statement they are reviewing their options.

The team could play the games without fans, find a neutral site or play the games on the road.

MLB officials, like the NBA, held a conference call with all 30 of their franchises on Monday to discuss the new policies.

All four leagues — and the NFL, which has been involved in the talks but isn't part of this policy since no teams are currently holding practices — are collecting information from the CDC and Canadian health officials, even as the situation changes almost on an hour-by-hour basis.

"We are regularly conveying the guidance from these experts to clubs, players, and staff regarding prevention, good hygiene practices and the latest recommendations related to travel," MLB said in a statement. "We are continuing to monitor developments and will adjust as necessary. While MLB recognizes the fluidity of this rapidly evolving situation, our current intention is to play Spring Training and regular season games as scheduled."

More than 113,000 people worldwide have tested positive for the disease and over 3,900 people with the

virus have died, most of them in China. More than 62,000 people have already recovered. The virus has infected 600 people in the United States — including the director of the agency that runs the airports in New York and New Jersey — and at least 26 have died, most in Washington state.

The Pro Basketball Writers Association quickly responded to the leagues' announcement by saying its membership "believes the safety of fans, players, team employees, arena workers and the media who cover the league must be protected." Our thoughts are with all people who already have

been adversely impacted by the virus.

"Therefore, we understand the NBA's decision to temporarily close locker rooms to everyone but players and essential team personnel with the NBA's promise that once the coronavirus crisis abates, the league will restore full access to the journalists who cover the league."

Some NCAA Division III men's basketball games this past weekend were played without crowds because of concerns over the virus. At least one college hockey playoff series this coming weekend in Troy, New York, between RPI and Harvard also will be played without fans. □

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Cleanliness is next to

As newlyweds, Phyllis and I moved into a new apartment without the usual domestic objects. Neighbors, having purchased a new vacuum cleaner, donated their aged, "it does not work very well anymore" vacuum cleaner. Three points motivated me to accept this gift. One, wanting to get off on the right foot, I did not want to seem ungracious to new neighbors. Two, we did not have a vacuum, so one, even "working well anymore" was better than doing it the "elbow grease" way. And finally, as my buddy Bob reminds me, I hate throwing anything away; wanting instead to repair everything. I grew up in a car dealership; where to repair is noble.

Soon, the aged vacuum cleaner lay in pieces in the corner of our sparsely furnished living room. Slowly, lint, hair and dust were removed from electrical contacts, hearing shafts, and rotors. A family tradition was born. If it doesn't work, clean it. Within days we had a vacuum cleaner that had regained its youthful vigor.

Amazing how everything works better when cleaned. I am not even saying repaired, just cleaned! The same can be said about your body. We clean our clothes, our skin, our houses, our cars, our floors, but what about our insides? We can clean our large intestines with a method called colon hydrotherapy. Since we introduced this procedure in Aruba at Viana Natural Healing Center we have seen small miracles take place.

Historically, colon hydrotherapy was a popular form of treatment among physicians in the 1930's and 40's and has been experiencing reappearance among natural physicians. "Colon lavage" was first recorded 1500 B.C., in the Ebers Papyrus, which dealt with ancient medical practices. These enemas were described as the

infusion of aqueous substances into the large intestine through the anus. Hippocrates, the "father" of allopathic medicine in the fourth and fifth Century B.C. recorded using enemas as a therapy for the reduction of fevers. In the second Century A.D., Galen, one of my heroes, also recognized and was an advocate of the use of enemas while strongly criticizing his contemporaries for their ignorance, greed, and superficial knowledge of the art of medicine. Also, Pare, the French surgeon, born in Laval, whose great practical skills and humanness distinguished him from his contemporaries, in 1600 A.D., offered the first distinction between colon irrigation and the popular enema therapy of that age. We are talking about all the true medical greats here.

So what is it? Colon hydrotherapy is an extended and more complete form of an enema. The treatment is designed to cleanse above the rectum to the cecum. The cecum is the first part of the large intestine, located on the lower right side of the abdomen and having a worm-shaped tube branching off called the appendix. Colon hydrotherapy involves the gentle infusion of warm filtered water into the rectum by the therapist or Natural Physician, using no chemicals or drugs. It is the natural solution to conditions, which interfere with the normal functions of the colon. The individual lies on his back, and water is mechanically infused into and out of the intestine without any assistance on the part of the patient. The out flowing water removes excess gas, mucus, infectious material and feces.

So why should a person consider colonic? An unclean, weak and poorly functioning colon is a breeding ground for disease, sickness and death. Natural Physicians will tell you that "old age starts in the colon". Serious health prob-

lems can develop if the colon is not properly cared for, and based on health statistics; colon health care in developed countries has been woefully neglected.

In the United States alone, over 750 million dollars is spent annually on laxatives. Laxatives act as chemical irritants and stimulate the muscular walls of the colon to abnormally contract to expel the irritating substances. It is very easy to become dependent upon these drugs. The oral route of administration is the least optimal method of evacuation of the large intestine. Very important digestive processes occurring higher up in the alimentary tract (stomach and small intestine) are interfered with. Most laxatives dehydrate or force the body to lose important water. Colon hydrotherapy alternately fills and empties the colon and improves the hydration status of the patient. A very good thing, since most people's bodies are severely lacking water. Additional health statistics tell us that this year an estimated 130,000 new cases of colon and rectal cancer will be diagnosed in the United States, making it the fourth most common form of cancer among Americans.

Good colon health is as much a function of the quality of food, based on our blood type, we eat, as it is our elimination status. The Standard American/ Aruban Diet (SAD) comprised of refined, processed foods, high in saturated fats, sugar, flour, preservatives and low in fiber, inevitably causes problems for the colon. Over time, the colon loses the ability to process vital nutrients, absorb water and to eliminate fecal matter from the body, a condition commonly known as "constipation", making bowel movements infrequent, and difficult.

With constipation comes toxicity. Toxins present in the unhealthy colon can be transported into the cir-



culatory system and soon the body may be unable to properly metabolize food and fat, or to provide vital energy for living! Colon toxicity can be the underlying cause of many commonly reported health problems and may indicate the need for colon hydrotherapy. Symptoms include: Constipation, Backaches, Diarrhea, Skin Problems, Difficult Weight Loss, Insomnia, Hypertension, Headaches, Arthritis, Bad Breath/Halitosis, Asthma, Allergies and this list could go on.

Intestinal cleansing is a therapeutic procedure, which addresses the cause or source of many of your medical problem. Other measures, especially allopathic drugs, which treat only the symptoms, will provide only temporary relief. Colon hydrotherapy could clean and dilute the toxin load in the large intestine, resulting in a reduced burden on the liver, allowing the eliminative organs to function optimally. Colon hydrotherapy could also prevent stagnation and minimize the exposure of carcinogenic agents to the colon wall. The above combined effect may serve to rejuvenate the immunological system and truly be a pathway to vibrant health!

Get the point! Your colon, together with your lungs, skin and kidneys, are designed to keep you healthy by accomplish the essential task of the elimination of toxins in the intestines, blood and lymph systems. You know the saying says "Cleanliness is next to Godliness". Now you know why. □

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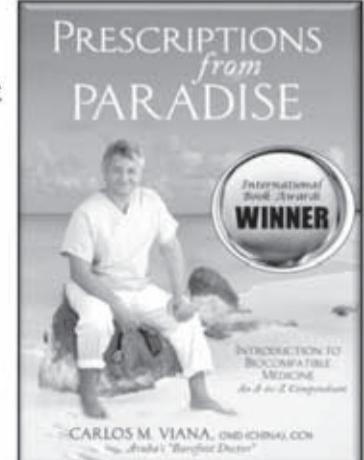
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Panda and poke: Restaurant trademarks can stir legal fights

By TERRY TANG
Associated Press

GILBERT, Ariz. (AP) — When picking a name for their Asian-Mexican fusion restaurant in suburban Phoenix, Paul and Nicole Fan settled on "Panda Libre," hoping the mix of China's iconic bear and the Spanish word for "free" would signal to customers the type of cuisine it offered. That decision could cost them dearly. Chinese takeout chain Panda Express sued them in federal court last month alleging trademark infringement.

The lawsuit showcases how trademark law can collide with an evolving dining landscape, where restaurateurs peddling Asian or Asian "inspired" foods often pick a name that instantly invokes a connection to that culture. But getting a trademark for the new name can lead to ugly and sometimes public clashes over ownership and cultural appropriation. In recent years, businesses have butted heads over whether a restaurant or food truck can legally own the right to use words rooted in Asian American Pacific Islander cultures like "aloha" and "poke."

The growing popularity of fast-casual restaurants like Thai, Indian or poke — diced and marinated raw fish — has led to a rush for ownership of certain aspects of that culture, said Telly Wong of IW Group marketing agency in New York City. Having a name that conveys authenticity is crucial when consumers make snap judgments, he said.

"Sometimes you need that cultural shorthand to convey that message," Wong



This Feb. 27, 2020 photo shows the inside of Panda Libre, an Asian-Mexican fusion restaurant, in Gilbert, Ariz.

said. "Otherwise, you're explaining to people, 'Oh, at Jack's, we sell southern Chinese food.'"

Panda Express' parent company, Rosemead, California-based Panda Restaurant Group, says it has owned the trademark for "Panda" for Chinese food services since 2001. The chain wants a court injunction and for Panda Libre to destroy signs, social media posts and other materials with the name.

"It would be like starting a new company. That alone there is hundreds of thousands of dollars in this restaurant," Nicole Fan said. "Going through this whole ordeal, the lawsuit, will bankrupt us."

On top of punitive damages and legal fees, Panda Express, which generated \$2 billion in sales last year,

is asking for all of Panda Libre's profits since it opened last year in Gilbert, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) east of Phoenix.

"Oftentimes it's overstated — the damages — to get the attention of the defendant," said Charles Valauskas, a Chicago intellectual property attorney who has represented restaurants. "It's not like (Panda Express is) going to sit there and wait till every last penny is drained from a bank account."

Experts say Panda Express is within its right to trademark

"Panda" for restaurant and food products.

"If you were selling pandas under the name 'Panda,' you probably wouldn't be able to do that because it's describing literally what you're doing," said Mark Simpson, a veteran intellectual property lawyer in Philadelphia. "It's like trying to trademark the words 'grocery store.' You could trademark 'Whole Foods' the grocery store."

Panda Express, which Andrew and Peggy Cherng launched in 1983 as an offshoot of their Panda Inn

Associated Press

restaurants, has more than 1,900 locations nationwide. The company says it has a "legal obligation to consistently protect them" but is hopeful for a resolution.

"We believe there is a path forward that allows for this small business to operate while respecting our intellectual property rights, and we remain open to a conversation with those involved," the company said in an email.

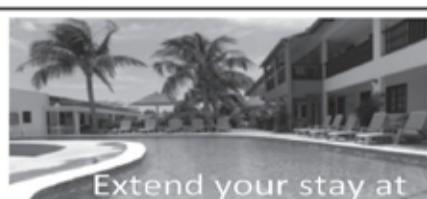
Nicole Fan says nobody has entered Panda Libre thinking it was a Panda Express. She points to the logo — a panda dressed in a cape and mask like a Mexican wrestler — and the fact that there are other eateries that use "panda."

Panda Restaurant Group said it takes legal action on a "case-by-case basis." It also says it settled several copyright infringement issues without litigation last year.

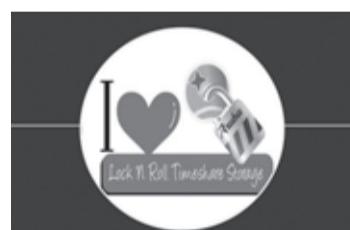
Other efforts to trademark cultural words have been met with fierce online backlash.

In 2009, loyalists to chef Roy Choi's Kogi Korean taco truck went online to accuse Tex Mex chain Baja Fresh of stealing his concept.

The Los Angeles-based truck's name came from a combination of "gogi," the Korean word for meat, and "K" for Korean BBQ. Baja Fresh had applied to trademark "Kogi" for its own line of Korean tacos and merchandise. □



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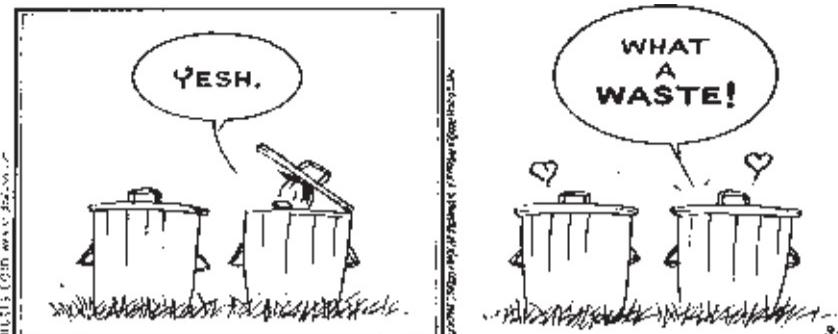
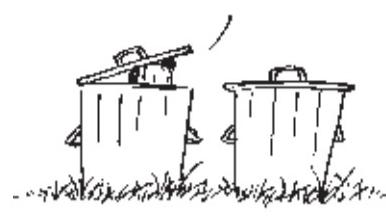


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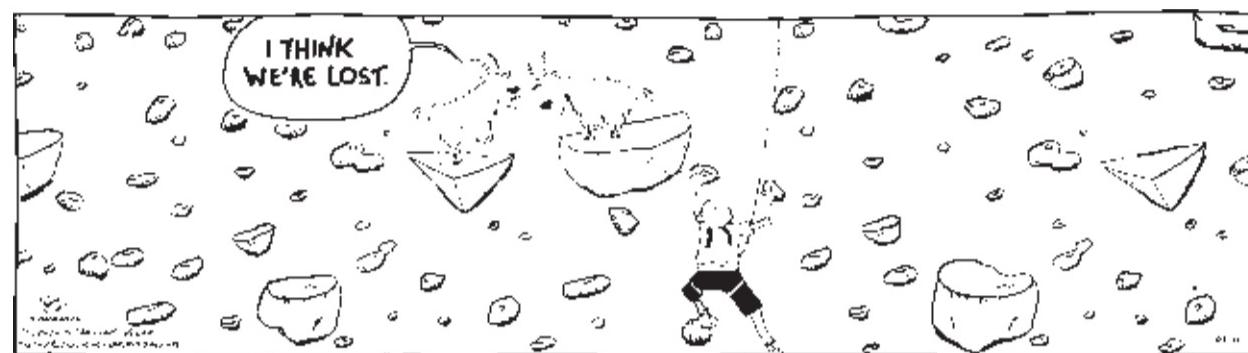
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Blondie

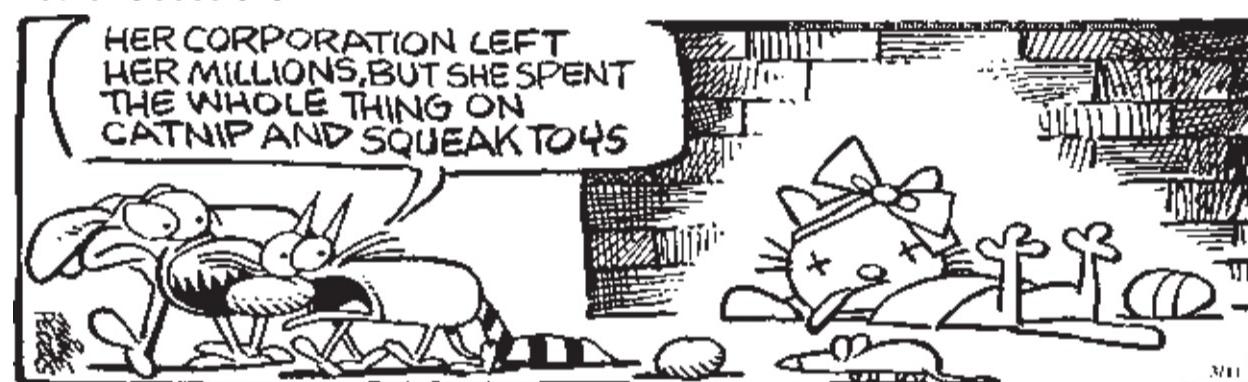


YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN, BECAUSE I KEPT GETTING DISTRACTED

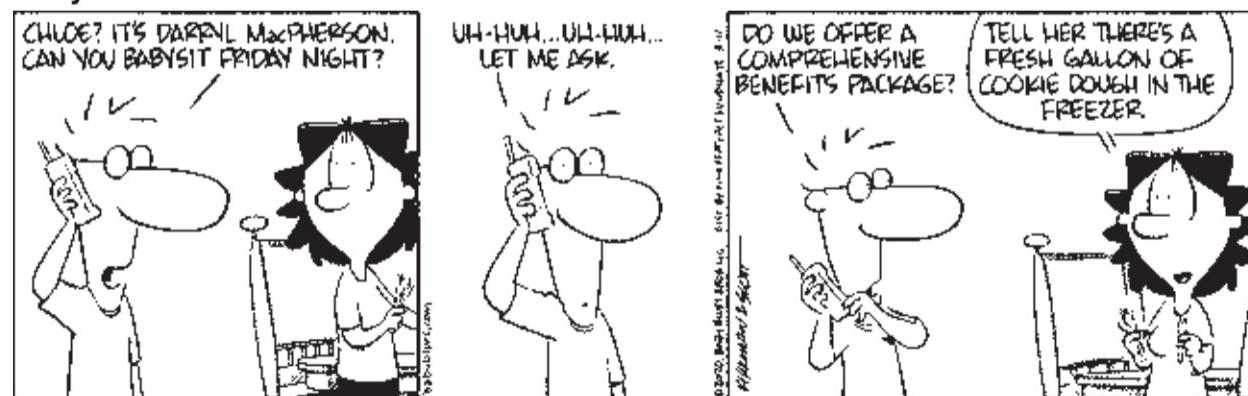
HOW WAS APPARENTLY IT WAS PRETTY BAD, BUT SWEETHEART?

LUCKILY I DIDN'T KNOW IT AT THE TIME

Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2	3			5	4			8							
1		4			5										9
6		2													9
7			6												2
	5	2													
4			3												5
2			8												6
9			5			7									3
	8	7													9

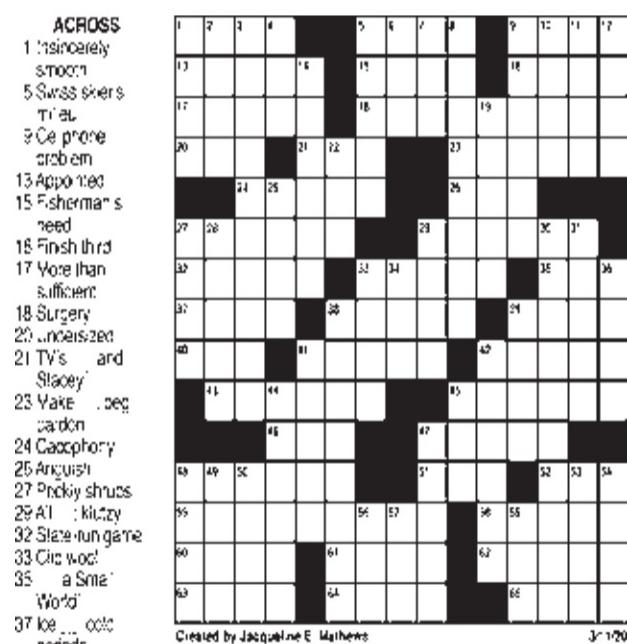
Difficulty Level ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

8	6	2	4	1	3	9	7	5							
3	9	7	6	5	8	2	4	1							
1	5	4	7	9	2	8	6	3							
4	8	1	5	7	9	3	2	6							
2	7	6	1	3	4	5	9	8							
9	3	5	2	8	6	7	1	4							
7	1	9	3	6	5	4	8	2							
5	4	8	9	2	1	6	3	7							
6	2	3	8	4	7	1	5	9							

Yesterday's puzzle answer



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3-10-20

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

P	E	P	O	A	S	I	S	S	H	D	E				
7															
E	D	A	M												
G	E	T	A	C	A	R	O	L							
N	E	C	T	A	R	I	N	E	A	X	E				
H	U	R	T												
A	D	L	B	S											
L	I	O	N	S											
L	A	N	E	P											
O	N	E	T	S											
W	A	R	R	A											
A	R	Y	T	Y											
Y	O	W	Y	Y											

41	tempered	50	for awhile
	table		
42	Gangster known as Scarface	53	Leave out
		54	up even the score
44	Weather forecast	56	Enemy
		57	3rd most populous nation
45	Adams or Johnson	58	abt.
		47	phonograph part
46	Guide for the Magi	59	
48	Consecrating		
49	Rx label info		

Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

For Rent

Renaissance suites

1 BR sleep 4 \$1K each

Date :3/6/20 to 3/20/20

Marriott Ocean Club

1 BR sleep 4 \$ 3 K

Date : 3/20/20 to 3/27/20

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Season

1BR Ocean View \$ 10 K

1 BR Ocean Front \$20 K

2 BR Ocean View \$17 K

2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum Season

2 BR Ocean View \$16K

2 BR Ocean side \$17K

2 BR Ocean Front \$26K

3 BR Ocean view \$28K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR PH wk 11/12 \$35 K each

Building 9 on the 7th floor

30 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

Studio wk 5,7,8 \$8K each

Birdie 1 on ground floor

22/27/29 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

Studio wk 5,6,7,8,9

Same room birdie 9

3rd floor 33 weeks remain

Each \$10 K each

Divi Links Golf

1 BR wk 8/9 \$9,5 K each

Eagle 9 ground floor

27 /19 weeks remain

1 BR wk 11 \$9 K

Birdie 3 with 26weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

1 BR wk 12/13 \$9,5 K each

Birdie 10 ground floor

33/34 weeks remain

Divi Village

2 BR wk 13 \$14 K

Building C 28weeks remain

Renaissance suites

1 BR wk 9 \$7,5K

On the 4 th floor

Harbor view

Playa Linda beach Resort

Studio wk 10 and 11 \$25 K both

1st floor pool/ocean view

Dutch Village

1BR wk 9 old contract

16 weeks remain \$7,5K

1 BR wk 8 \$ 8 K

12 weeks remain

Dutch Village

1 BR wk 7 and 8 \$8K each

15 weeks remain each

2 BR wk 7 \$16K

23 weeks remain

Casa del Mar

1 BR wk 12 \$7,5 K

La cabana beach and casino

1 BR wk 11/12 \$8,5 K each

4th floor pool/ocean view

Sunday check in

Eagle Resorts

1 BR wk 7,8,9 \$7,5 K each

Le Vent Condo

3 BR , 2 Bath \$650 K

Caribbean Palm Village

1BR wk 13 \$6k eachon sd floor

1BR wk14

Ground floor

CASA DEL MAR 2BR/2B

Weeks 7&8/1408 (18k/Wk.);

Week 8/1113; 8/1409 (17k/Wk.);

Week 9/1218 (15k);

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	March 12	Carnival Horizon
	Zuiderdam	
	Freewinds	

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Flu and coronavirus: Similar symptoms, different fears

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

Is it the flu, a cold or the new coronavirus? Patients and doctors alike are parsing signs of illness to figure out who needs what tests or care and how worried they should be.

"You have three different major viruses floating around at the same time," causing somewhat similar symptoms — but different levels of concern, said Dr. Gary LeRoy, president of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

So what's the biggest danger? And why are we responding to them so differently?

FAMILIAR FOE

COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, is a flu-like illness that has killed a small fraction of the number of people that the flu kills every year. Through the first four months of the outbreak, coronavirus has killed about 4,300 people. Flu kills 290,000 to 650,000 every year around the world, according to the World Health Organization.

To some, that comparison seems comforting because flu is such a familiar foe. President Donald Trump regularly brings it up, noting in a tweet how many more Americans die from flu and adding, "Nothing is shut down, life & the economy go on ... Think about that!" But to public health experts, the huge number of flu deaths is exactly why extraordinary steps should be taken to try to prevent the new coronavirus from spreading widely.

The flu's annual return can't be stopped because it's already so embedded in the population. There is still a chance COVID-19 cases can be limited or spread slowed while treatments



In this Friday, Feb. 9, 2018 file photo, a 73-year-old man places a cold compress on his forehead while battling the flu at a hospital in Georgia.

Associated Press

are developed.

HOW DEADLY ARE THE VIRUSES?

Flu kills about 0.1% of those it infects, but that's still hundreds of thousands of people each year because it infects millions.

Researchers are still trying to understand just how deadly the new coronavirus is. The mortality rate from infection with the virus isn't known yet because the cases caught in an early part of an outbreak are often the most severe, people with mild or no symptoms aren't being tested, and sometimes overwhelmed hospitals struggle to care for the sickest patients. Various reports have estimated the fatality rate from less than 1% to as high as 4% among cases diagnosed so far, depending on location.

Most people infected by the new coronavirus develop mild or moderate symptoms and recover af-

ter about two weeks.

SO WHAT DO I HAVE?

Flu, cold and coronavirus often share certain symptoms, but differences in intensity and how they appear

can offer clues to which one is causing the misery. Doctors can test for the flu and get results within a day, but coronavirus testing is still limited by availability in the United States. Colds are often suspected because adults get about two on average each year, said LeRoy, a family medicine doctor and associate dean at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. "The common cold just starts out with a sore or scratchy throat, cough, runny nose, stuffy nose" and any fever is usually mild, he said.

Flu symptoms are more intense and usually come on suddenly, the Yale New Haven Health System advises. They can include a high fever (over 100.5 degrees),

extreme exhaustion, muscle or body aches, a dry cough and chills.

"It really hits you like a bus," and people may start a day well but feel terrible by afternoon, LeRoy said.

Flu symptoms can include a runny or stuffy nose, headaches and possibly vomiting or diarrhea, though the latter two are more common in children than adults, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says.

Symptoms of COVID-19 may appear more slowly. They usually include fever, a dry cough and noticeable shortness of breath, according to the World Health Organization. A minority of cases develop pneumonia, and the disease is especially worrisome for the elderly and those with other medical problems such as high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes or heart conditions.

One study of hospitalized patients in China found that about half did not have a fever when they were admitted but nearly all developed one.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE SICK

Don't go straight to your doctor's office -- that just risks making more people sick, officials urge. Call ahead, and ask if you need to be seen and where.

Fever, cough and noticeable shortness of breath -- "if you have those three components, especially if it's associated with some recent travel or someone you know who's been exposed to COVID-19, those things should prompt you to call for medical attention," LeRoy said.

"Mildly ill patients should be encouraged to stay home," the CDC's Dr. Sue Gerber told doctors on a conference call last week. People having difficulty breathing should seek care, and older people or those with other conditions should contact their doctors early in the course of illness, she said.

PREVENTION

To protect yourself, wash your hands well and often, keep them away from your face, and avoid crowds and standing close to people.

There's one big difference between flu and coronavirus: A vaccine exists to help prevent the flu and it's not too late to get it. It won't protect you from catching the coronavirus, but may put you in a better position to fight it.

"You don't want to have a compromised immune system if you were to encounter coronavirus," LeRoy said. □

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McCaskill makes transition from Senate to television

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC News analyst Claire McCaskill is talking about some of the shows where she appears — "Morning Joe," Rachel Maddow or Nicolle Wallace's hours — when a questioner slips in a little test. What's your favorite? She bats it away like an annoying fly.

"I'm candid," she said. "I'm not stupid."

Clearly, the former U.S. senator's political instincts haven't dulled since her defeat in 2018. That's also apparent on the air, where she has emerged as a colorful and blunt analyst through President Donald Trump's impeachment trial and the presidential primaries.

McCaskill said Trump's impeachment lawyers had learned "the Trump ethos, which is if you're cornered, just lie" and sharply rebuked Tennessee Sen. Marsha Blackburn on the air. When there was a question about how the Senate was going to proceed on a vote to call witnesses during the impeachment trial, McCaskill took out her phone and texted several former colleagues for the lowdown. She's been having a blast.

"I have been shocked at how happy I am," McCaskill said in an interview steps away from an MSNBC set recently. "I assumed it was going to be more painful than it has been, to not be in the fray but rather commenting on the fray."

After taking some time to unwind after losing her bid for a third term to Josh Hawley, the 66-year-old Missouri Democrat found that news organizations looking for analysts were calling her, instead of the other way around. She had always tried to be forthright when talking to reporters — as much as any politician can be — and her willingness to answer questions was noticed. She was comfortable with MSNBC after making frequent appearances there.

Since crossing over to the media, McCaskill said she's found "the freedom is ex-

hilarating." "The biggest transition was getting comfortable with the fact that I can say what I really think about Donald Trump," she said.

And what would that be? "Donald Trump is a disaster

House communications director in George W. Bush's administration, said she enjoys talking to someone who understands politics and government from being a participant. She was giddy on the air watching

ing comment from the AP about McCaskill. The AP reached out to the White House for comment about McCaskill's criticism.

Commentator McCaskill hasn't yet come under sustained attack from Repub-

Democrat to sound like a Democrat," said Tim Graham, director of media analysis at the conservative Media Research Center.

Being from a state like Missouri taught McCaskill that no matter what she did, roughly half of her constituents would be happy with the other half mad — and not hesitant to tell her.

"Some people who have not been through the political wars that I have been would be worried about that level of negativity," she said. "I get it. All in a day's work. My back is already so thick that it's not like somebody calling me fat is going to make me cry."

Few people back home are surprised to see what she's doing at NBC News, said Steve Kraske, a radio host at KCUR and a former newspaper columnist in Kansas City.

As a senator, McCaskill would hold town hall meetings in the most conservative areas of the state, inviting audience members to write down questions that would randomly be drawn out of a hat so she couldn't be accused of stage-managing the event, he said.

"She's got a lot of Harry Truman in her," Kraske said, referencing another plain-spoken Missouri politician.

Her new perch has given McCaskill the ability to give viewers an insider's knowledge about what it's like to be in the Senate, such as a piece she did about the work of the Senate parliamentarian.

She's not happy about how the Senate has become more sharply partisan and noted that there's no encouragement to build relationships with colleagues across the aisle.

Even while watching the impeachment trial, McCaskill said she wasn't wishing she was on the Senate floor.

"Chuck (Schumer) has said to me several times since I made the transition that 'you look so damn happy. Stay away from the members because I don't want them getting the idea that there is life after the Senate,'" she said. □



In this Nov. 6, 2018 file photo, Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., steps on stage to deliver a concession speech in St. Louis.

Associated Press

for our country," she said. A little more diplomacy toward the president was required when she was active in Missouri politics, since the Republican carried the state in the 2016 election. It has also enabled McCaskill to see what supporters admire in him. "Let's be honest, he hit some heartstrings," she said when analyzing Trump's State of the Union speech.

"What people see when they see her on the air isn't somebody who read a poll or is making her best guess," Wallace said. "She lived it. She arrives at her position thoughtfully, not reflexively."

Wallace, former White

McCaskill text colleagues for inside info.

Wagging a finger and looking into the camera, McCaskill bluntly went after Blackburn during the impeachment hearings when the Republican tweeted criticism of Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman. The White House national security aide was a key witness in the impeachment inquiry.

"Don't you lecture anybody about how patriotic a veteran like Vindman is when you are going to the mat for a man who stood next to Putin and trashed the United States of America," she said.

Blackburn didn't immediately return an email seek-

lars. The last time Trump tweeted about her was to urge a vote for Hawley. After a McCaskill tweet suggested Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson was featured prominently in a picture of administration officials because he was one of the few black people there, Trump aide Katrina Pierson called her a "closet racist."

"How's unemployment?" Donald Trump Jr. said in a tweet.

McCaskill called the response "manufactured outrage."

Otherwise, she hasn't gotten much critical attention because "you expect a



This image released by Focus Features shows Sidney Flanigan in a scene from "Never Rarely Sometimes Always."

Associated Press

Review: Unease of girlhood shines through in ‘Never Rarely’

**By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press**

The teenage girls at the center of "Never Rarely Sometimes Always" don't have the luxury of being carefree. Granted, things are a little complicated at the moment we enter their lives: 17-year-old Autumn (newcomer Sidney Flanigan) is pregnant and doesn't want to be anymore. But you get the sense that neither Autumn nor her cousin Skylar (Talia Ryder, also a newcomer) have been able to relax, fully, for quite some time, but definitely not since puberty hit. The world of writer and director Eliza Hittman's film is an uneasy one for a girl. We meet Autumn at a school talent show. Everyone else is performing goofy, fun acts in groups, but she stands on the stage alone with her voice and her guitar and sings a song of heartache and loneliness. A boy in the audience yells out "slut." It's shocking but also not and Autumn merely continues with her song. She doesn't have many choices in the moment, but "ignore and move on" seems to be her default mode of coping. Over the course of the film there is quite literally not a single man who isn't a threat to the girls in some way, whether through overt

harassment, general hostility, or the even that gray area where the interaction might qualify as socially acceptable but still leaves someone feeling uncomfortable. This is, of course, a little overly simplistic, but it serves the film well in showing the daily discomfort of merely existing publicly in the body of a teenage girl. Add to that an unwanted pregnancy and the fact of life in a rural Pennsylvania town where abortion isn't an option and you start to get a sense of why neither Autumn nor Skylar have much reason to smile. Now that anyone asks them to, that would be too cheap of a shot for a film this thoughtful. Autumn attempts to get help near home, but realizes eventually that the women in her town are not exactly supportive of her decision. And so in order to have a choice she and Skylar board a bus to New York, where things don't get any easier. The first clinic they try won't terminate past a certain point in the pregnancy. The next option won't be open until the following day and Autumn and Skyler, now having enough money to spend on a hotel, are only able to wander the cold, wet and uninviting city until morning.

think of "Never Rarely Sometimes Always" as simply an abortion drama. This is a film about class and gender and femaleness and youth and unwanted attention that makes the smallest moments come alive with humanity. Rarely has a filmmaker ever given so much care to show the everyday awkwardness and subtle humiliations of being a woman, from the minor things (like adjusting a bra strap) to the major. The girls navigate subways, bureaucracies and even karaoke rooms and bowling alleys with the fortitude of warriors. Both Flanigan and Ryder should have Hollywood clamoring for them after this film.

This is an easy film to get swept up in, but there is one scene that stands above all the others in its mastery and it's the one that the title is derived from. Autumn doesn't have the luxury of letting her guard down for most of the movie, but in this scene a warm and serious woman at the clinic asks Autumn a series of questions that you sense she has never even dared ask herself. Her face fills the frame, masking the emotion until she can't contain it anymore. It's cathartic and devastating to see her finally get the attention she actually needs. □

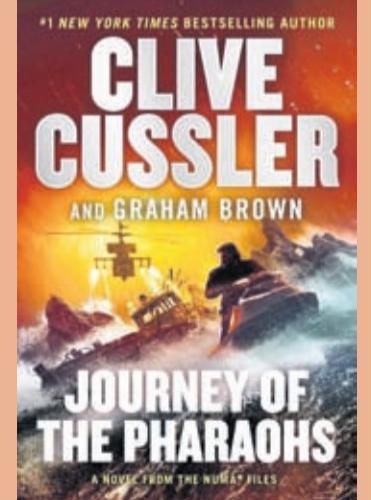
Review: New NUMA Files story is a nonstop thrill ride

By JEFF AYERS
Associated Press

"Journey of the Pharaohs," Putnam, by Clive Cussler and Graham Brown

In 1074 B.C., an Egyptian fleet heads out to sea and vanishes from sight and history. In 1927, a pilot attempting to make a trans-continental flight disappears. And in the present, a boat sinks with a secret cargo in the Clive Cussler and Graham Brown novel "Journey of the Pharaohs." In typical Cussler fashion, the three seemingly disparate events are

actually related, and an act of kindness to rescue the men on the vessel that is sinking throws Kurt Austin and his partner and best friend, Joe Zavala, into a deadly conspiracy. The doomed ship was carrying an item of historical significance, and when Austin recovers it, he learns that it is part of an ancient Egyptian artifact with hieroglyphics that tell part of a story of Herihor, a military commander who rose to prominence and became a pharaoh but has been largely forgotten. □



This cover image released by Putnam shows "Journey of the Pharaohs," a novel by Clive Cussler and Graham Brown.

Associated Press



In this Oct. 1, 2018, file photo, moderator Alex Trebek speaks in Hershey, Pa.

Associated Press

'Jeopardy!' and 'Wheel of Fortune' to tape, sans audiences

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Jeopardy!" and "Wheel of Fortune" will tape without studio audiences in response to the ongoing virus outbreak.

A person close to the shows tells The Associated Press Monday that the move is being taken out of an abundance of caution given the spread of the new coronavirus in numerous communities in the United States and abroad. The source spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the decision.

The popular gameshows are the latest television project to shift plans due to the new coronavirus. Last week, CBS announced that it was suspending production on "The Amaz-

ing Race" in response to the outbreak. The shows tape months in advance, so the presumably quieter shows will not immediately be noticeable to viewers at home. Both are filmed at a studio in Culver City, California. For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. □

Western art museum in Montana postpones exhibition, auction

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) — A Western art museum in Montana has postponed its annual exhibition and fundraising auction due to coronavirus concerns while other events during Western Art Week in Great Falls will take place.

C.M. Russell Museum executive director Tim Figarelle said Monday the event brings art enthusiasts from around the United States and Canada to Great Falls. Organizers are postponing the museum's activities during next week's Western Art Week as a precaution.

No coronavirus infections have been reported in Montana. For most peo-

ple, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The postponed events include the Russell Western Heritage Awards on March 18, the preview party for the Russell auction on March 19 and auctions on Friday and Saturday.

"Safeguarding the health of our treasured friends and our hometown is the utmost priority with our decision," Figarelle said in a statement. □

Barbara Neely, creator of black female sleuth series, dies

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Award-winning mystery writer Barbara Neely, who created the first black female sleuth series in mainstream American publishing, died March 2 after a brief illness, according to her publisher, Brash Books. She was 78.

Neely is perhaps best known for her four-book *Blanche White* series, which had at its center a nomadic amateur detective and domestic worker who uses the invisibility inherent to her job as an advantage in pursuit of the truth.

"I realized the mystery genre was perfect to talk about serious subjects," she told *Ms. Magazine* in 2000, "and it could carry the political fiction I wanted to write."

Neely was named the 2020 Grand Master by the Mystery Writers of America. In announcing the honor last year, the association described Neely as "a groundbreaking author" who "tackles tough social issues with an unflinching eye and a wry sense of humor." The *Blanche White* series

includes 1992's "Blanche on the Lam," 1994's "Blanche Among the Talented Tenth," 1998's "Blanche Cleans Up" and 2000's "Blanche Passes Go." They push past mystery into political and social commentary, like tackling violence against women, racism, class boundaries and sexism. "If Toni Morrison wrote murder mysteries, they would probably read a bit like Barbara Neely's," the women's general-interest website Bustle said in 2015.

Her *White* had an uncommon eye for detail and interpretation. Early in "Blanche Among the Talented Tenth," *White* sees a magazine picture and thinks something is amiss. "It wasn't natural for a picture of black people in a public place to all be the same complexion, unless somebody wanted it that way." "Blanche on the Lam" won the Agatha Award, Anthony Award, and the Macavity Award for best first novel, as well as the Go on Girl! Award from Black Women's Reading Club.

Her series has been translated into several languag-

es including French, Czech, German and Japanese. She was included in 2012's "100 American Crime Writers" by Steven Powell.

"She was an inspiration, a trailblazer and a remarkable talent and voice whose loss is deeply felt," Mystery Writers of America said in a statement following her death. "Her talent and memory will live on forever in her wonderful books."

Neely was born in 1941 in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. She attended the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned her master's degree. She worked on behalf of women released from prison and as a radio producer.

She also had positions at the Institute of Social Research and was executive director of Women for Economic Justice.

Neely published her first short story, "Passing the Word" in the magazine Essence in 1981. It took her more than a decade to become an established author. Her other works include "Among the Talented Tenth: A Novel." □

Poland sets date for Frederic Chopin piano competition

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Culture authorities in Poland said Monday that the 18th edition of the international Frederic Chopin piano competition will take place Oct. 2-23 in Warsaw.

Eliminations for the competition, which is famous for launching world careers for its laureates, will be held April 17-28 in Warsaw and select around 80 pianists who will compete in the fall.

Addressing concerns over the spread of the coronavirus, the head of the organizing National Frederic Chopin Institute, Arthur Szkleiner, said that the eliminations would only

be postponed until September if a large number of those who qualified were unable to come to Poland in April.

A total of 164 pianists from 33 nations including from Asia, Europe, North America and Australia will perform before a jury at the Chamber Hall of the Warsaw Philharmonic in the qualifications for the fall event.

The only time that the dates of the eliminations were extended to allow participants to attend was in 2010, when ash from a volcano eruption in Iceland temporarily grounded planes, making air travel impossible over Europe.

Fans will be able to follow

the competition live on www.chopin2020.pl and watch the finals from Oct. 18-21 in special fan zones in New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, Budapest, Moscow, Jerusalem and Seoul.

The winner will receive a gold medal and a 40,000-euro (\$45,000) prize.

The competition began in 1927 and was postponed from 1937-49. It has been held every five years since 1955, and is known for drawing international crowds and launching its laureates to stardom. Among its winners are Argentina's Martha Argerich, Italy's Maurizio Pollini, Garric Ohlsson from the U.S. and Poland's Krystian Zimmerman. □

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